

## 'No ground war for 48 hours'

PARIS (AP) — There will be no ground war in the Gulf for at least two days, the general in charge of French ground troops to Operation Desert Storm said Wednesday. Soldiers on both sides of the battle lines will continue sizing each other up during that time, Gen. Daniel Gazeau told French television. "I can tell you that as of now, there is nothing in particular in the coming 48 hours," Gen. Gazeau said on an afternoon news broadcast when asked about an expected ground war. "There will continue to be troops, face to face, in the process of informing themselves about each other," Gen. Gazeau said in an interview from Riyadh. "That is being done mainly by the coalition because the Iraqi troops are essentially in a defensive position." Gen. Gazeau is deputy in charge of ground forces to Gen. Michel Roquejeoffre, commander of French forces to Saudi Arabia. Heavy artillery fire will herald the start of a ground offensive, Gen. Gazeau said. Such "preparation firing" will begin just before ground troops go on the move, he said.

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## Qadhafi threatens Islamic revolution

PARIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Wednesday there would be "a revolution from the Gulf to the Atlantic" and Islamic violence on all continents if Iraq were crushed despite its readiness to leave Kuwait. "Vengeance is not permitted. If the situation permits it could lead us to decree a revolution from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean," he told Radio Monte Carlo's Middle East service in an interview. "The revolutionary forces of the world are awaiting just such a call from me," Colonel Qadhafi said, adding that he was "under constant pressure from Islamic forces, revolutionary forces. But, I would like to give peace a chance," he said. If, however, he ultimately issued a call to arms, then "all the continents would become the stage for acts of violence." Qadhafi, whose country is currently hosting a conference of North African foreign ministers, repeated his opposition to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. But he said: "Now that Iraq has responded favourably to the demands of the international community, vengeance is not permitted."

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# Moscow awaits word from Baghdad

## Soviets cool to Bush's position on peace proposal

Combined agency dispatches

THE SOVIET UNION waited for Iraq's response to its Gulf war peace plan but did not expect Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to return with an answer Wednesday, officials said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said Mr. Aziz could not make it overland from Baghdad to Iran and then by air to Moscow that quickly. Mr. Aziz travelled via Iran because the allied forces refused to guarantee him safe passage out of Iraqi air space.

"We're expecting a prompt response from the Iraqis to the peace plan put forward by the president," Mr. Churkin said at a regular news briefing.

But he added the Iraqis had not confirmed Mr. Aziz would respond in person to the secret peace plan Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave Mr. Aziz Monday to convey to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Another visit of an Iraqi representative need not necessarily take place for Iraq to inform the Soviet Union about its response," Mr. Churkin told reporters.

Valentin Falin, head of the Communist Party's international department, told reporters earlier that "anyway today, Moscow would receive an answer from Iraq. 'We are waiting for it'."

German opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said Wednesday in

Bonn that he got the impression after meeting with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati that Mr. Aziz would delay his trip to Moscow by a day.

An Italian official said the Soviet peace plan calls for Iraq to begin withdrawing from Kuwait a day after a ceasefire takes effect, and pledges that Iraqi troops will not be attacked while pulling out.

Mr. Falin said he hoped the U.S.-led coalition would not begin a ground offensive until Iraq responded to the peace plan. "There is a chance to find a solution without escalating the war at present," he said.

"Restraint and a high feeling of responsibility from the opposing sides is needed as never before to give peace a real chance of success," said Yuri Tsyrovsky, international observer for the official Soviet news agency TASS.

But he added: "Moscow's goal is returning peace to the region at the same time as Washington apparently is trying for the diametrically opposite."

Mr. Falin, like Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh the previous day, Wednesday discounted U.S. President George Bush's rejection of the peace plan.

Mr. Bush said the proposal "falls well short of what would be required" to end the month-old war.

"I wouldn't say President Bush rejected it," Mr. Falin said. "President Bush gave the impression he might have some additional desires."

The Kremlin has not released details of Mr. Gorbachev's plan except

## King, Saleh discuss Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday contacted Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and exchanged views with him on the Soviet peace plan and efforts made to end the Gulf war and solve it peacefully.

King Hussein also received a cable from Sudanese National Salvation Revolution and Command Council Chairman Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, who was passing through Jordanian airspace on his way to Damascus. Mr. Bashir expressed his best wishes to King Hussein and voiced hope that the Arab Nation "will be able to pass this critical stage."

to say it is consistent with U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait as an independent state.

Soviet U.N. envoy Yuli Vorontsov said Tuesday Mr. Aziz was expected to return to Moscow Wednesday. Mr. Churkin said he did not know how Mr. Vorontsov gained this impression.

"The information can be transmitted in any way... another visit of an Iraqi representative does not have to take place for the information to be passed on," he said.

Mr. Churkin said Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh had talked to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker about the plan and details had been given to governments in the U.S.-led coalition.

"One should not be too optimistic because it is a very complicated situation," Mr. Churkin said. "We are trying to do our best. President Gorbachev's plan is trying to limit the bloodshed."

Throughout the last week, while the coalition has made final preparations for a land assault, the Soviet Union has expressed cautious optimism about prospects for settlement.

Moscow was Iraq's main arms supplier and close ally before the Aug. 2

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HELPING HAND: Volunteers load baby food and medicine on to trucks bound for Iraq as contribution from the Jordanian people to the Iraqi people (Photo by Yusef Al-Allan)

## Velayati: Allies should wait for Iraq's answer today

Combined agency dispatches

IRANIAN FOREIGN Minister Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hope Wednesday that Iraq would respond "very clearly" to the Soviet plan to end the Gulf war, and said Baghdad should be given another day to provide an answer.

Mr. Velayati, who came to France and Germany, spoke following a 40-minute meeting with President Francois Mitterrand.

"We have found that the views of France and Iran are very close...," he told reporters. "Both countries are determined to put an end to this disaster."

"We hope Iraq will respond very clearly to recent proposals for peace," Mr. Velayati said.

Neither the United States, Britain or France has given an outright rejection of the Soviet plan, none has expressed much reason to hope it would lead to a halt in the war.

Asked if it was not already too late for an answer, Mr. Velayati, speaking in English, said: "We have to wait until tomorrow."

Mr. Velayati was due to hold further talks with his French counterpart Roland Dumas Wednesday evening.

Mr. Dumas said earlier that Iraq must "choose clearly and without further delay between withdrawal from Kuwait and continuation of the war," and ought to make its choice known in the next few hours.

A French lawmaker heading the Senate's commission on foreign affairs and defence said he had learned that the leading nations in the multinational force had given Iraq until Thursday night to issue a response.

"Between now and 24 hours from now, from the end of this day until the end of tomorrow, Saddam Hussein must make known whether he has decided to withdraw from Kuwait, without conditions and without evasions," Jean Lecanuet said.

He said this was the conclusion from a commission hearing with Foreign Minister Dumas.

"I understood that all the allies were agreed" to accord Iraq this delay before launching a ground offensive on Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

Mr. Velayati gave no further indication that a Thursday deadline had been set.

The contents of the Soviet plan have remained confidential.

On his arrival, Mr. Velayati

said France could "play an important role in bringing peace to the Gulf region."

France has stressed Iran's importance in the Gulf region, underscoring the point again Wednesday.

"Iran is a country which ought to have an important role to play..." Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said. Iran, which has professed neutrality in the Gulf war, has taken on a role as mediator.

On his two-day visit to Bonn, Mr. Velayati said Iraq was ready to work towards a political end to the war. But such a solution has two "fundamental" requirements, he said: Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region.

Mr. Velayati, who visited France in December, also was expected to discuss bilateral relations during his visit.

France, which supported and helped arm Iraq during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, has substantially improved relations with Tehran. But outstanding issues remain, including settlement of a one-billion dollar debt incurred by France during the reign of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

## Baker insists on Iraq's total compliance with resolutions

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY of State James Baker said Wednesday that an end to the Gulf war hinges on full Iraqi compliance with all U.N. resolutions.

"Iraq must leave Kuwait immediately, totally and unconditionally and Iraq must comply fully with the other applicable Security Council resolutions," he said.

"Anything short of that is unacceptable," he said during a luncheon toast for visiting Queen Margrethe of Denmark.

His comments followed a telephone call with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh about a Soviet peace plan for getting Iraq out of Kuwait that U.S. President George Bush said Tuesday "falls well short of what would be required."

Mr. Baker, in his toast, said the U.N. mandate, crafted with close Soviet support in the run-up to war, "is crystal clear and there can be no negotiation over its meaning and there should be no confusion over what must be done."

Mr. Baker, buttressing speculation that a ground assault on Iraqi forces may be near, said: "So now, one way or another, the Iraqi army of occupation will leave Kuwait. And one way or another, the army of Iraq will leave Kuwait soon. And so Kuwait will be liberated — soon."

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said at her daily news briefing that Mr. Baker telephoned Mr. Bessmertnykh on Tuesday to discuss the Gulf crisis but she refused to go into detail.

U.S. officials said the conversation dealt with the lengthy comment on the proposed Soviet peace plan that Mr. Baker transmitted to Moscow late Monday night.

Details of the plan have not been formally released by any party but U.S. officials are anxious about the degree to which the Soviet Union may be willing to settle for terms for Iraq's withdrawal that could be endorsed by Washington.

President George Bush had indicated the Soviet plan is unsatisfactory, but a top congressional leader said Wednesday: "I don't know how he could fail to accept it."

Thomas S. Foley, leader of the opposition Democrats in the lower house of Congress, said the administration is worried that leaving Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in power could create "a serious problem in the Gulf for years to come."

On Tuesday, Mr. Bush said he told Mr. Gorbachev the Soviet proposal "falls well short of what would be required." But the pressure on the president to agree to a ceasefire would be enormous if Iraq embraces the Soviet plan and moves to withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

Mr. Foley told the U.S. television network ABC: "The president would be faced with a very difficult choice, in fact I don't know how he could fail to accept it, if Saddam Hussein would agree to withdraw unconditionally and without linkage."

Robert H. Michel, who leads the president's Republican Party in the lower house of Congress, told ABC the United States would not want to see President Saddam regroup and "be there as a menace within a couple of years."

"We want to see conditions change, and while that may go a bit beyond what the U.N. resolutions call for, we want to stay on course with our military attack and not be delayed," Mr. Michel said.

Mr. Bush's objection to the Soviet peace plan appeared to be based on the conclusion that the proposal would leave President Saddam in power and a threat.

The administration also concluded that Mr. Gorbachev wanted to "prop-up" President Saddam and keep him in power in order to give Moscow some influence in the region, said a source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Foley said Iraqi acceptance of the Soviet proposal could place Mr. Bush in an awkward position, depending on what the plan involves.

## Iraq says allies rejected peace bids

Combined agency dispatches

AFTER A NIGHT OF heavy bombing on Baghdad, Iraq said Wednesday that the allies had rejected all of its "honest, peaceful attempts" to resolve the Gulf crisis.

The latest allied air assault on the capital began late Tuesday, shortly after Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz returned with a Soviet proposal to end the war. There was no immediate word on the nature of Iraq's response to the plan, or when it might be disclosed.

A military communique carried by Baghdad Radio did not mention the Soviet proposal, but said the allies "have rejected all honest, peaceful attempts made by Iraq from a position of strength, and by peace advocates the world over."

It said Iraq's morale was unbroken and declared that victory on the battlefield could be achieved "with God's help."

Later, a radio commentary noted that an allied ground offensive might be imminent.

"They will face another severe

failure when their ground forces become easy targets for our brave soldiers," the radio said. "Their paper plans will be nothing when the ground battle starts."

"We have not ceased to defy them... we will continue to hold tightly to all the capabilities which help us... to come out of this battle safe and sound, as well as victorious," it added.

American rejection of Iraqi and Soviet peace proposals "reveal that contrary to all their claims they did not come with their fleets and troops to liberate anyone," it said.

U.S. President George Bush, who dismissed Iraqi proposals to halt the war last week as a "cruel hoax," Tuesday described the Soviet ideas as falling far short of allied requirements.

Information Minister Latif Jassim told American commander General Norman Schwarzkopf that if he thinks the Iraqi army is ready to collapse he should "try his luck" on the battlefield.

Gen. Schwarzkopf, who has directed five weeks of intensive air bombardment of Iraq and Iraqi forces

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## Palestinians given emergency food aid

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (AP) — The bright blue U.N. truck had barely backed into position near a clinic in Bethlehem on Wednesday when it was besieged by scores of Palestinian families.

The truck's 17-ton load of flour and rice was the first distributed in the U.N. Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) emergency food programme, organised because of the strictures Israel has placed on Palestinians during the Gulf war.

Over the next three months, UNRWA will distribute food to an estimated 295,000 Palestinian families in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Most have been confined to their towns and villages by army curfew since the war began five weeks ago. Although the army has given special permits for some Palestinians to return to jobs, most remain stuck at home, unable to work and running out of money.

The army contends the curfews are necessary to prevent pro-Iraqi demonstrations by Palestinians while Israel is dealing with Iraqi missile attacks.

Zenab Ismail of Bethlehem said

she desperately needed the U.N. food to feed her 12 children. Each family receives 50 kilograms of flour and five kilograms of rice.

"They (the soldiers) are not allowing us to live our lives," Mrs. Ismail complained. "We could support ourselves if we could go to our jobs."

A similar complaint was voiced by Mohammad Mahmoud Iyash, of nearby Beit Jallah. Mr. Iyash said he had been unable to get to his construction job in Jerusalem since the curfew was imposed.

"There are 10 people in my house," he said. "We very much appreciate this help."

He added: "We ask God that peace will come and we can return to our normal lives."

The 12-nation European Community (EC) is funding the emergency food programme, which will continue for three months, said UNRWA spokesman Sandro Tucci.

UNRWA normally helps only Palestinian refugees, those whose families fled or were driven from Israel when the Jewish state was formed in 1948. Now, because of missile attacks,

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## Levy urges Israel to move towards peace

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister David Levy, in an apparent swipe at Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said on Wednesday that Israel must shun a "sit and do nothing" policy on making peace with Arabs.

Mr. Levy, 53, who is labelled a pragmatist by friends and an opportunist by foes, addressed parliament three days after Mr. Shamir, 75, said publicly that any Middle East peace plans must await the end of the Gulf war.

"A complete policy of 'sit and do nothing' is a recipe for political damage," Mr. Levy said. "Then all that is left is for Israel to react to formulated initiatives and be called obstinate."

The longstanding battle of the two Likud Party ministers has captured nearly as much attention here in recent days as the more than 30 Iraqi Scud missiles fired at Israel in the first 35 days of the Gulf war.

Mr. Shamir's senior adviser, Avi Pazner, denied Mr. Levy was blasting the premier's policies. He told Reuters he saw no contradiction in the two positions, adding: "This has nothing to do with Shamir. They have made their peace."

Last week Mr. Shamir helped arrange a meeting with U.S. leaders in Washington for Defence

Minister Moshe Arens only days before Mr. Levy was due to go there. Mr. Arens, 65, is considered Mr. Shamir's apparent heir to the party crown.

Mr. Levy cancelled his trip and in a television interview accused the prime minister's office of working "behind my back" and possibly trying to "blacken my name."

Last year Mr. Levy helped lead the fight against Mr. Shamir's proposal to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The foreign minister said he was ready to talk to any Palestinian in the occupied territories willing to discuss the initiative, including those who had taken to the roofs to cheer Iraqi Scud attacks.

"I'll tell my friends... who are asking me: 'Are you going to talk to those who stood on the roofs in (the West Bank) and rejoiced,' that I'll indeed talk to them," Mr. Levy told parliament.

"If I reject the PLO, I should do everything in order to find those among the residents of (the occupied territories) who are ready to accept Israel's peace initiative and discuss it with them without fear," he said.

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## Italians, revealing details of peace plan, endorse it

ROME (AP) — A senior Italian government official, revealing details of the Soviet peace plan, Wednesday offered the first endorsement of it from a U.S. ally against Iraq.

Premier Giulio Andreotti's top aide, Nino Cristofori, said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal offered this week to Iraq calls for Baghdad to begin pulling its troops out of Kuwait a day after a ceasefire would go into effect. Mr. Gorbachev also would guarantee that Iraqi troops would not be attacked during withdrawal, Mr. Cristofori told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

U.S. President George Bush Tuesday said the Soviet plan "falls well short of what would be required." Italy, which has a small squadron of warplanes making bombing runs against Iraqi forces, was among allied coalition members briefed by Moscow

about the plan.

Mr. Cristofori said Mr. Andreotti had told the cabinet that the Soviet plan was "perfectly in line" with the U.N. resolutions demanding that Iraq withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait.

By late Wednesday, Italy's endorsement stood alone among statements made public by Western leaders. British Prime Minister John Major has indicated there was nothing in the plan to "incline us to agree to a ceasefire or pause in the conflict." Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Wednesday met the Soviet ambassador to London to discuss the Soviet proposal.

France and Britain, saying they were honouring a Kremlin request, declined to reveal details of the plan.

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## Bombs explode at several Western embassies in Iran

ROME (R) — Bombs exploded at several Western embassies in Tehran Wednesday causing damage but no casualties, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

"We know a bomb exploded in the Italian embassy compound. There were also bombs at several other Western embassies," a ministry spokesman said.

The Italian news agency ANSA reported that bombs also exploded at the embassies of Britain, Turkey and Germany. But a spokesman could not confirm exactly which embassies were involved.

Britain said its mission in Iran was attacked and condemned reports from Rome that its embassies, including the Soviet mission, were also attacked.

The Foreign Office said two explosive devices, believed to have been grenades, were thrown

at the British embassy building, causing damage but no injuries.

"We can confirm two bombs were thrown at the embassy this afternoon which exploded. It is not clear what sort of device was used but it appears it was some sort of grenade," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

In Bonn, the German Foreign Ministry said their embassy had not been hit, adding that he had heard of attacks at the Italian and Turkish embassies.

The Foreign Office spokesman said the British mission in Tehran confirmed that bombs also exploded at the Italian and Soviet embassies. It was believed a bomb went off at the Turkish embassy but there was as yet no evidence.

The spokesman could not say whether the attacks were related

## Hammadi delivers message to Li

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI DEPUTY Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi, met Wednesday with Chinese Premier Li Peng during a surprise visit apparently intended to win support for Iraq's demands in ending the Gulf war.

Dr. Hammadi's visit, which was not previously announced, came at the height of the latest diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict in the Gulf.

Dr. Hammadi conveyed a message from Iraqi leader to Mr. Li during their 80-minute meeting, the official Xinhua news agency reported without giving any details of the message.

He was believed to have sought China's support for the Iraqi position in United Nations talks on the Gulf. The U.N. Security Council, of which China is a permanent member, has been discussing the Gulf war in closed-door sessions.

The Xinhua report said Dr. Hammadi also briefed Mr. Li on the war situation and Iraq's offer last Friday to withdraw. Allied leaders rejected the withdrawal proposal because it is conditional.

But Mr. Li called the Iraqi offer "a positive change." China has drafted a five-point peace plan, presented to the United Nations last week, that calls for Iraq to signify willingness to withdraw from Kuwait.

Mr. Li "urged Iraq to seize the opportunity and take immediate and concrete measures and actions to withdraw its troops from Kuwait," Xinhua said.

Dr. Hammadi left China Wednesday afternoon after meeting Mr. Li, Foreign Minister Qian

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## Iraqis vow revenge for hundreds killed in shelter bombing

By Wafa Amr  
The Associated Press  
BAGHDAD — Six days after the death of hundreds of civilians in an air raid shelter hit by allied bombs Iraqis were still shocked and bitter Tuesday as they vowed to avenge their dead.

"I don't know how I feel, I don't feel anything," said Talib Abbas, who lost 9 members of his family, four wives and five children, in the Al Ameriah shelter bombing.

"We will avenge their blood. We feel so bitter, we will show them when the time comes on the front," Mr. Abbas added after a brief pause, speaking with vehemence.

The anger in the afflicted neighbourhood is directed as much against the United States as against Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and the other Arab sheikdoms of the Gulf for joining the coalition waging war against Iraq.

Black banners with names of dead family members flutter from practically every house in the Al Ameriah quarter which is still smogged and in deep mourning.

"We did not expect a civilian

shelter to be bombed. It was not bombed by mistake. They (the allies) have satellites in the sky that see everything here and they knew this was a civilian shelter," said Jaafar Jamani, 27, who lost five members of his family.

The allied command maintains the shelter was a legitimate target because it was used as a military command post and communications centre.

"I used to take them there every night believing they would be safe from the bombing," added, Mr. Jamani, who said he did not stay in the shelter himself the night it was hit.

"The Iraqis whom we fought for eight years are better than some Arabs," said Jamal Mahdi, who lost his wife and 2 daughters.

Iran protested over the mounting civilian toll from the allied bombing and has been pressing for a ceasefire in the war, now in its fifth week.

"We know how to deal with these Arabs when the war is over," Mr. Mahdi said cursing the Arab governments in the allied coalition.

Many people in the neigh-



The charred body of a victim of last-week's allied attack on a civilian bomb shelter in Baghdad is taken out from the wreckage.

bourhood echoed Mr. Abbas' threat to avenge the death of their loved ones during the expected ground battle when the allies attack to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. They are convinced the United States and its allies will be defeated.

They speak with bitter hatred against the alliance as they recount how the charred, often unrecognisable, bodies of their loved ones were brought out of the smouldering shelter.

Large signs on the enter-

ances to the shelter proclaim "Civil shelter no. 25."

Inside the shelter it was dark with a smell of smoke, which was still drifting out of a jagged hole in the roof punched by one of the two missiles that hit Wednesday night.

"We dug out a woman still clutching her baby to her breast. Both were completely burned," said one man.

Madiah Abdulkas showed a reporter a photograph of her daughter with tears rolling down her cheeks.

"We thought it was safe. We never imagined for one second the enemy would be as cruel as this," she said.

She was speaking while feeding her 16-year-old son, one of the few survivors, though he was severely burned.

People in the neighbourhood estimated the death toll at more than 1,000. The official figure was 314.

They said the capacity of the shelter was 1,500 people, adding it was packed the night it was bombed.

## Smoke of war blackens Iranian towns

NICOSIA (AP) — An allied ground offensive that sets more oilfields aflame could release thick clouds of smoke and toxic thick rain over a thousand kilometres threatening lives, polluting scarce water and damaging vital crops, experts say.

"Like the oil slick in the Gulf, the smoke and acid rain would have horrific environmental effect on the whole region," said Greenpeace spokesman Steve Elsworth.

"But unlike the slick, the effects of the fires are far more likely to injure people than ecosystems, and we don't yet know exactly what the pollution cocktail contains."

Nobody knows exactly what level of exposure to the smoke could lead to illness. Nor is the precise chemical composition of the cloud known. But smoke from an oil blaze certainly contains sulphur, causing the acid rain known to kill trees and plants over time.

On Tuesday, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported thick smoke blanketing a number of towns and villages along the Iraqi border, including Qasr-e-Shirin, a town of about 20,000. For the first time, dark clouds of smoke also were reported in southern Iran, including Bandar Lengeh on the Strait of Hormuz, the news agency said.

Fifty oil fires already are burning in Kuwait, Pentagon sources say. Nobody knows for certain how many refineries, wells and petrochemical complexes are ablaze in Iraq.

The Nicosia-based weekly newsletter Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), quoting unidentified intelligence sources, reported Monday that specific damage in Kuwait included six wells on fire in the Burgan oilfield, 12 wells on fire in northern Kuwait and four gathering centres badly damaged.

It said service contracts are being negotiated with four U.S. firefighting firms. But nothing can be done until the shooting stops.

MEES said damage and destruction inflicted on Iraqi oil installations include the Haditha K-3 crude oil pumping station, the 30,000 barrel a day Kirkuk refinery, the 95,000 barrel a day Daura refinery near Baghdad and the 155,000 barrel a day refinery, tube plant and petrochemical complex near Basra.

"One thing is certain, a ground war would leave many more fires in its wake," said Peter Montague, director of the Washington D.C.-based Environmental Research Foundation, in a telephone interview.

"The effects will be around for a long while, incorporated into food chains and water supplies, not to mention in the air."

But some oil experts say that even much larger amounts of smoke might do little harm.

Peter Selwood, technical secretary of Britain's Offshore Operators' Association, said that crude oil burning in storage tanks or refineries would produce large amounts of smoke, but oil exploding from a well under pressure contains a lot of gas and can form a mist that "burns like fuel in a carburetor."

Even with just a few dozen fires, however, massive clouds of sulphur, nitrogen oxide, and hydrocarbons already are threatening more than a million people in Iran's western province of Ilam, across from the Iraqi fields.

Poisoned fish  
Several Iranians have been poisoned by fish affected by oil slicks resulting from Gulf war fighting, IRNA said Tuesday.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### India bars Gulf-bound S. Korean planes

SEOUL (R) — India refused to allow Gulf-bound South Korean military transport planes to fly through its airspace Wednesday, the Defence Ministry said. A ministry spokesman said: "India suddenly notified us that it would not allow our planes to fly over its territorial sky without any explanation, so we had to postpone the departure of the military air transport team." The planes were part of a unit of five C-130s and a 130-member air force group of pilots, crew and support personnel that Seoul promised earlier this month to send to the United Arab Emirates to help move supplies for the multinational force fighting Iraq.

### Israel snubs German Greens

TEL AVIV (R) — Government officials and opposition politicians snubbed visiting delegates of the German Green Party Wednesday for saying Iraqi missile attacks on Israel were logical. Party spokesman Hans Christian Stroebel was quoted on Tuesday in the English-language Jerusalem Post as saying: "Iraq's attacks on Israel are the logical, almost compelling consequence of Israel's policies vis-a-vis the Palestinians and the Arab states, including Iraq." The Israeli Foreign Ministry and the left-wing opposition Citizens' Rights Movement Party cancelled meetings with the Greens scheduled Wednesday. "It was our original intention to meet the representative of the Green Party visiting in Israel," a foreign ministry statement said. "In light of an interview by the spokesman which justified Iraqi missile attacks on Israel, we don't see any point to enter a dialogue with them. This comes on the backdrop of the German involvement in building the Iraqi war machine," it said.

### Sharaa attacks Western media

DAMASCUS (AP) — Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa was quoted by state-run newspapers Wednesday as saying certain "Western and Zionist" media sought to turn the war against Iraq into a defeat for all Arabs. Mr. Sharaa was quoted as telling parliament on Tuesday that these news organisations, which he did not identify, were "encouraging Saddam Hussein to persist in his intransigence and provoking the Arabs to be dragged into a war which is not theirs."

"These Western and Zionist circles are not satisfied with Iraq's defeat, but aim at turning the war into an all-out defeat for all the Arabs." It was the strongest criticism of the Western press by a top Syrian official since the Gulf war began Jan. 17. But Mr. Sharaa indicated that Syria had no intention of softening its anti-Iraq stand or splitting from the allied coalition.

### Protester arraigned

BIDDEFORD, Maine (AP) — An anti-war protester who disrupted a church service attended by President George Bush was freed Tuesday. During his arraignment, he called for a ceasefire in the Gulf war. John Schuchardt, 51, spent two days in the jail in lieu of \$1,000 bond after he called on Mr. Bush during a Sunday service to halt the bombing of Iraq. Judge Leigh Sanfey entered an innocent plea for Mr. Schuchardt on Tuesday and ordered him released on his own recognisance. About 25 to 30 anti-war protesters gathered at the courthouse cheered when deputies removed shackles from Mr. Schuchardt's ankles. "I'm tired but it's nothing compared to what our troops are going through," said Mr. Schuchardt, who was joined by his wife and son. Mr. Schuchardt was arrested on a complaint by church members after he appealed to Mr. Bush to "stop the massacre" in the Middle East during Sunday morning services at a church in Kennebunkport. Mr. Bush and his wife, Barbara, stayed at their vacation home there over the weekend. Mr. Schuchardt was silenced initially by police, but he was dragged from the church after a second outburst.

### Israeli minister's house defaced

TEL AVIV (R) — Vandals scrawled abuse on the house of an Israeli cabinet minister who is involved in a row over pardoning soldiers convicted of using excessive force against Palestinians, police said. Justice Minister Dan Meridor has led a campaign against a proposal by hardline members of parliament to pardon soldiers who broke army regulations at the start of the 38-month-old Palestinian uprising in occupied territories. Mr. Meridor, who is close to rightist Likud Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, was accused of being a leftist in graffiti on the door and walls of his apartment building signed by the anti-Arab Kach party Monday night. Israel Television said Mr. Meridor also received threatening mail and phone calls. Kach, founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, campaigns to expel the nearly 2.5 million Arabs living under Israeli rule.

### German workers refuse overtime

BREMEN, Germany (R) — Workers at the German factory making spare parts for Britain's Gulf war Tornado fighter-bombers have stopped doing overtime, their union said. Union official Uwe Neuhaus said the works committee at the Deutsche Airbus factory in Bremen had decided "on moral grounds" several weeks ago not to authorise any overtime by workers making Tornado parts. Normal production of Tornado parts was not disrupted, he said. He declined to give further details. The company said the decision followed a complaint by one of the 20 workers in Bremen who make parts for the Tornado, which is playing a major role in the bombing campaign against Iraq.

### U.S. deplores Israeli detentions

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Tuesday it was opposed to Israel's policy of detaining Palestinian suspects on administrative orders without trial. Asked about the case of Palestinian journalist Taher Shriteh, who has been held in jail for three weeks without charges in Gaza, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said: "Our opposition to the practice of administrative detentions in the occupied territories is longstanding. Charges against detainees ought to be made public and detainees should be given the opportunity to defend themselves in a court of law. The Israeli government is well aware of our position." Mr. Shriteh, a part-time correspondent for Reuters in the occupied Gaza Strip, is accused of aiding Hamas, an Islamic fundamentalist group. He appeared in a military court Monday but was refused a request for bail and held for further questioning until at least March 10.

## Latest casualty list of Gulf war

The Associated Press

HERE'S a summary of the latest numbers on the Gulf war.

Reported Wednesday:

- More than 2,900 sorties.
- One American killed in action.
- More than 500 Iraqis taken prisoner.

Since start of war:

- Allied sorties: 86,000 missions flown.

Reported by the allies:

- 36 killed in action, including 17 Americans and 19 Saudis.
- 30 Americans listed as non-combat deaths: An additional 105 Americans listed as non-combat deaths in Operation Desert Shield before the war.

- 51 missing in action, including 30 Americans, 10 British, one Italian and 10 Saudis.
- 12 prisoners of war, including eight Americans, two British, one Italian and one Kuwaiti.
- 40 allied planes lost; 31 in combat, including 22 American, six British, one Kuwaiti, one Italian, one Saudi. Non-combat losses: Nine planes, including seven American, one British, one Saudi. Six American helicopters to non-hostile causes.
- More than 1,780 Iraqis taken prisoner.
- 135 Iraqi planes destroyed plus six helicopters.

Reported by Iraq:

- More than 180 allied aircraft downed.
- More than 20 prisoners held.
- No comprehensive casualty figures have been issued. An Iraqi official was quoted as saying 20,000 Iraqis were killed and 60,000 wounded in first 26 days of the war. No breakdown for civilians and military given.

## Ecumenical team going to Mideast

CANBERRA (AP) — The World Council of Churches said Wednesday it will send a top-level ecumenical delegation to the Middle East, including Israel.

The timing and itinerary of the trip, along with the makeup of the delegation, have not been decided. The goal will be to investigate conditions in the region and the needs of the people.

The announcement came as its two-week policy-making assembly was debating policy and resolutions on the Gulf war.

The Rev. Riad Jajour, a delegate from the Middle East Church Council, told a news conference that the flow of refugees from Kuwait and Iraq will be heavy after a ceasefire.

He claimed 100,000 people would leave Kuwait now if they had gasoline and that Syria has set up 40 camps to accept refugees.

Rev. Jajour and another church official also criticised Israel over its treatment of Palestinians. He said the Gulf war was being used as a pretext for a severe curfew in the Israeli-occupied territories and that by

the end of the month, 80 per cent of families in those areas would be living in poverty.

"There is a mini-Gulf war in the occupied territories," said Ghassan Rubeiz, of the council's Commission on Interchurch Aid. He said that in addition to its fact-finding goal, the Mideast delegation would be a gesture of solidarity with Palestinians.

"Israel is seeking to bolster its security at the expense of the Palestinians," Rubeiz said. "It's time for Israel to show some reciprocity with the Palestinians because they have compromised. It's not fair for them to suffer collective punishment."

Israel has limited the movement of Palestinians, fearing violence from those who support Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Council delegates were to consider a resolution commending Israel for showing restraint in not responding militarily to Iraqi missile attacks.

But Jean Zaru, an adviser to the Friends of the United Meeting from Palestine, drew applause when she said Israel should not be praised because it violates human rights.

## U.N. panel approves food for Iranian prisoners

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council's Sanctions Committee Tuesday approved a request for food for Iranian prisoners in Iraq as well as sanitation equipment to combat potential epidemics, committee sources said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had asked the committee for approval of what one member described as a "limited quantity of food" for the estimated 2,000 Iranian prisoners still in Iraq as well as some foreign nationals trapped there.

A ceasefire in the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq went into effect in August 1988 but the two sides did not complete a prisoner exchange.

In addition the ICRC, which has nine representatives in Baghdad, has announced it would send in sanitary engineers and asked the Security Council committee for permission to deliver water purification equipment.

The ICRC has said there is a

shortage of drinking water because of allied damage to the Iraqi supply system as well as a lack of fuel and electricity and that it fears an outbreak of epidemics.

The Sanctions Committee, which is comprised of all 15 members of the Security Council, still has not approved a request from Iran to send in large quantities of food for vulnerable sections of the Iraqi population.

The committee is awaiting a report on general food needs from the ICRC or a delegation of U.N. relief officials who arrived in Baghdad Saturday to deliver medicine for children, women and the elderly.

Under trade sanctions imposed by the Security Council against Iraq on Aug. 6, four days after its invasion of Kuwait, medicine is permitted. But food is banned unless an international organisation, such as the United Nations or the ICRC, verifies a need and oversees its distribution.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

06:51 ..... Fajr  
06:59 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:49 ..... Dhuhr  
15:08 ..... 'Asr  
17:38 ..... Maghrib  
18:47 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815017 and 654932.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and some clouds appear at different altitudes. In Amman, it will be warm and clear.

Min./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 3 / 16  
Aqaba ..... 10 / 24  
Dhaka ..... 2 / 17  
Jordan Valley ..... 8 / 22  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman

man 17, Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohammad Khalil ..... 896294  
Dr. Jamil Tarif ..... 794710  
Dr. Muhammad Al Awad ..... 741391  
Dr. Ahmad Al Ashhab ..... 602507  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 782334  
Al Aqsa pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairouth pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shameisi pharmacy ..... 637660

IRAB:  
Dr. Mohammad Al Ibrahim ..... (—)  
Al Sharaa's pharmacy ..... (275825)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Hussein Mahmood ..... (—)  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 661111  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199

Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department ..... 630221  
Hotel Complaints ..... 608800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 891467  
Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-52200  
Queer Alla Int. Airport ..... 06-52200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644261/6  
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Madina, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845945  
Al-Musader Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajirin ..... 777018  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Madina ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alla Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarga Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983333  
Zarga National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IRBID:  
Prince Basma Hospital ..... (02)273555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... (02)947100  
AQABA:  
Pinnacle Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.  
Apples ..... 350 / 480

Banana ..... 300 / 450  
Banana (Malaysian) ..... 450 / 400  
Beans ..... 300 / 500  
Cabbage ..... 80 / 40  
Carrot ..... 160 / 120  
Cauliflower ..... 280 / 240  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 100 / 50  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 200 / 150  
Dates ..... 500 / 400  
Eggplant ..... 300 / 150  
Garlic ..... 1600 / 1400  
Lemon ..... 300 / 150  
Marrow (large) ..... 160 / 100  
Marrow (small) ..... 340 / 280  
Onion (dry) ..... 280 / 220  
Onion (green) ..... 180 / 120  
Okra ..... 600 / 500  
Orange ..... 540 / 320  
Pepper (hot) ..... 160 / 100  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 210 / 160  
Potato ..... 100 / 50  
Sage ..... 400 / 300  
Spinach ..... 120 / 80  
Tomatoes ..... 180 / 140



## Convoy of trucks carries Arab medical supplies to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Arab medical relief committee set up by the Arab Doctors Union (ADU) Wednesday dispatched a convoy of trucks to Iraq in the aftermath of the continued emergency aid to the embattled country. The announcement was made by ADU's Secretary-General Hassan Khreis who said that part of the consignment came from Tunisia and Algeria. The rest was bought by the committee in Jordan or raised as contributions from the public.

According to Dr. Khreis, the total cost of the shipment, sent in a convoy of trucks, was estimated at JD 227,000 of which JD 10,000 came from Jordan alone. Dr. Khreis said that an Algerian team grouping 30 doctors and surgeons was due here shortly while another team of 24 doctors and specialists from Tunisia was already arriving carrying 3,000 boxes of medicine and medical equipment heading for Iraq.

## Princess Sarvath gives special attention to medical relief efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan chaired a meeting Wednesday to discuss ways to systematise the handling and distribution of medical donations from both official and private sources abroad. Donations have been received for the Jordanian people as a direct result of Her Royal Highness's personal contacts.

Her Royal Highness stated that twelve tonnes of medicines and medical supplies have arrived to date from Germany and Holland. More contributions are expected from Spain, Scandinavia and United States of America.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Adnan Jalil, minister of health, Dr. Ahmad Abu Qumrah, chairman of the National Red Crescent Committee, Dr. Ali Atiq, the UNDP resident representative, Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, chairman of the Medical Association, Mr. Nigel Fisher of UNICEF, Mr. Mohammad Imtiaz, of WHO, and representatives of other Jordanian agencies.

Participants attending reviewed various ways and means of coordinating the efficient handling and distribution of medical donations. It was agreed to form a technical sub-committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Health, Royal Medical Services and Jordan University Hospital to follow up proposals discussed during the meeting.

Her Royal Highness stressed the need to supply the hospitals and clinics with any required assistance, in order to return to and improve the level of medical care previously achieved in Jordan.

## Algerian, Iraqi relief officials hold press conference today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The president of the Algerian Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, Dr. Mawlad Balwan and the director of international relations at the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Khaled Abdul Hamid are in Amman for talks with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) to cooperate in supplying the Iraqi people with humanitarian requirement of food and medicines.

According to the JNRCS, the Algerian and Iraqi officials will address a press conference Thursday to talk about their committee's humanitarian services in general and in cooperation with the JNRCS in particular.

During their stay in Amman, the Algerian and Iraqi officials will meet with heads of other humanitarian organisations operating in Jordan to coordinate their efforts designed to give aid to Iraq.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed arrived in Amman Wednesday and said that the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have responded to Iraq's call for help to the Iraqi people in light of the ongoing air raids and the grave circumstances inflicted on the Iraqi people.

Both WHO and UNICEF last week sent a shipment of \$600,000 worth of medical supplies to help about three million people in Iraq.

The medical supplies include paediatric and other essential drugs, oral rehydration salts and medical equipment according to UNICEF.

The shipment, which went to Iraq from Iran, included 12 trucks and was accompanied by specialists.

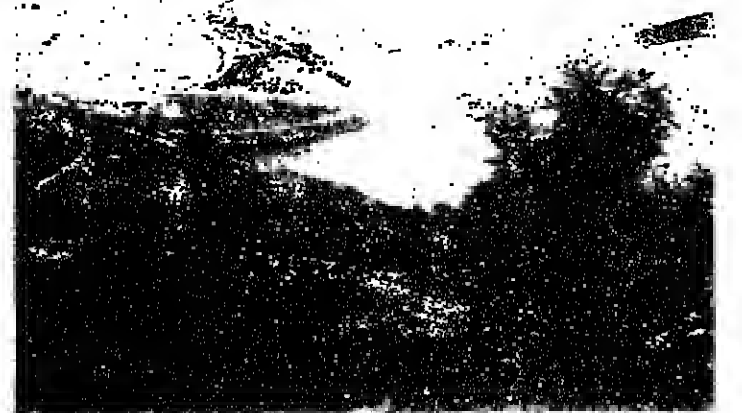
## February rain noticeably raises dams' water level

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rain that fell in Jordan since the beginning of February has meant that around 12 million cubic metres have accumulated behind the King Talal Dam, raising its present quantity to 18 million cubic metres, according to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

Officials at the ministry were quoted as saying that Wadi Al Arab Dam now has 7,632 million, Sharhabil 853,000, Wadi Shueib 812,000, and Kafra nearly two million cubic metres of water.

The total capacity of the King Talal Dam is 80 million cubic metres of water should be collected in the reservoir as a minimum for a relatively fair agricultural season in the Jordan Valley which is irrigated by water from the dams.

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) had earlier stopped pumping dam water to the farmlands of the Jordan Valley since they get sufficient water from rain and streams. The Ministry of Water has now resumed pumping water from the Deir Alla Water Project to the Amman region for drinking purposes after a break of several months; and said that the Jordan Valley region has received surplus amounts of collected rain water allowing this procedure to take place.



A general view of King Talal dam (file photo)

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Mohammad Alawneh Wednesday called on agricultural engineers to lease state-owned land to be developed for increasing food production.

The move, he said, aims at helping unemployed agricultural engineers to benefit by developing state-owned land and increasing food production.

The minister's announcement followed a recent meeting with the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association during which the question of unemployed engineers was discussed.

The government earlier announced that it would allow organisations, companies, private citizens and farmers to develop state-owned land in the Jordan Valley for the production of cereals.

Wheat and other grain is a priority for the country which imports most of its cereal needs.

## Government answers queries of deputies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday heard several ministers' replies to queries raised by deputies, and referred to its specialised committees and to the government other proposals and queries on a variety of matters.

A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the ministers of finance, culture, water and irrigation, interior and industry and trade answered questions about the lease of government-owned land in the south-eastern regions, the Royal Yachting Club in Aqaba, replacement of the old water network in Irbid, retaining senior officers at the Public Security Department (PSD) and the importation of ready-made clothes.

The statement said that the session, which was attended by Prime Minister Muhsin Badran and cabinet members, endorsed a number of recommendations by the House's Administrative Committee concerning complaints submitted by members of the public and a number of local companies and trade unions.

Following the opening session, a closed session was held to discuss a mechanism for operating the House's sessions.

The Upper House of Parliament announced, meanwhile, that it would hold a session Thursday to discuss a number of draft laws referred to it by the Lower House.

These include, among others, a law on economic crimes and another on land appropriation.

The House's speaker earlier chaired a meeting of the legal committee to discuss draft laws concerning the reconstruction of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the dome of the Rock sites in Jerusalem and a martyrs fund for the med forces.

## Jordanians rolled on Gulf war

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Opinion Centre (Arab Press) is conducting a poll in Jordan on the ongoing Gulf war and Jordanian people's reaction to the continued allied air raids on Iraq.

The poll is the first of its kind in Jordan, has distributed questionnaires to 200 people from various sectors in Jordan containing questions related to the Gulf war on Iraq, the loss of the United States desire to find solutions for the Gulf and Middle East crisis after the Gulf conflict ended, and the Jordanian's expectations about the result of the conflict specially if a battle occurs.

The poll, which is being conducted by the Arab Press, would be distributed to local press and local radio and television on Friday.

It is the fourth survey conducted by the centre since its inception three months ago.

## Middle East Council of Churches helps expatriates and evacuees

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates returning from Kuwait, many of whom are penniless, are being helped by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) which has its regional office in Amman.

Palestinians crossing into the occupied Arab territories are particularly being helped, without any discrimination of any sort, with the MECC paying for their trip back, thus enabling them to hold on to their homeland, according to a MECC senior official here.

He told the Jordan Times that some university students returning here from Kuwait have been helped by the MECC to pay fees at colleges they have joined in the Kingdom.

To date, 3,000 expatriates returning to the Kingdom have received MECC aid since the beginning of the Gulf crisis in August; and a total of \$180,000 were spent by the MECC in the course of providing this assistance, the official noted.

When the crisis in the Gulf first emerged, MECC Secretary-General Gabi Habib issued one appeal after another to various churches around the world urging them to contribute towards helping evacuees converging on Jordan, as well as expatriates returning to the country or trying to return to the occupied Arab territories and other homeless people and citizens in need, the official noted.

To back the MECC's work, a former World Bank expert, Daniel Chelliah, arrived here to help coordinate relief services.

According to the official, MECC's intensive efforts to raise donations and contributions succeeded in setting up "Al Rahme" evacuee camp at Ruweisah which housed Bangladeshi nationals fleeing from Kuwait. Food supplies, tents and health services sufficing nearly 7,000 of these evacuees were made available.

According to the official, \$1 million in cash was raised from churches around the world in addition to five aircraft loads of food and medical supplies were spent on or used for the benefit of evacuees over the past six months.

Through help from the Swedish churches, MECC was also able to cover the cost of repatriating thousands of evacuees arriving here since the crisis began last August.

According to Ministry of Interior figures, at least 800,000 evacuees from different nationalities passed through Jordan over the past six months and were given assistance by the government-sponsored Evacuees Welfare Committee working in cooperation with international organisations.

According to the official, the MECC is now turning its attention to raising donations and in kind contributions like medicines and food to the expected flood of refugees who might be fleeing Kuwait towards Jordan and is also trying to spread information about the actual situation in the region and the consequences of the continued air raids on civilian population as well as the damage inflicted on the Jordanian economy.

## Italian peace delegation expresses solidarity with Iraqis, Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 30-member Italian peace team which arrived in Amman Tuesday is going to Baghdad soon in an expression of solidarity with the Iraqi people currently facing a devastating aggression.

"We are against this war which is also opposed by millions around the world and seek peace based on justice for all peoples of the world," said delegation spokesmen at a press conference held at the Amman Regency Hotel.

"Those responsible for sending warplanes to kill the women and children of Iraq are the same responsible for repressive measures being committed in Italy against the legitimate rights of men and women and the working class," said the spokesman at the press conference.

The Italian people can by no means declare war on any other people of the world and our group represents a large section of the Italian masses who are openly demonstrating in Italian cities against the continuation of the war in Iraq, they added.

The spokesman said that the group came to Jordan in order to convey to the Arab people that a large sector of the Italian people has now moved to confront the Italian government's decision to take part in the criminal air bombardment of the Iraqi people.

They expressed the Italian people's solidarity with the Iraqi and Arab people and said that solidarity was needed to foil the plots of the warmongers and pave the ground for peaceful solutions.

Referring to the Palestine question, the group's spokesman said that there can be no peace in the world as long as the people of Palestine were deprived of their legitimate rights to self-determination and remained subjected to all forms of repression and persecution.

Later Wednesday, the Italian peace group staged a sit in at the Italian embassy in Amman and handed the ambassador a message expressing their solidarity with the Iraqi people and their desire for an end to the Gulf war by peaceful means.

In the message, the group said that their visit here on their way to Baghdad was to express solidarity with the Jordanian and Palestinian people as well as those of Iraq, and to voice the Italian people's desire to see peace established in the region.

The message strongly demanded a halt to the war of genocide "in which the Italian forces are taking part under the umbrella of unjust U.N. Security Council resolutions."

The group called on the Italian ambassador to urge his government to take the side of peace and to pull its forces from the Gulf.

The group carried posters expressing their stand and calling for the United Nations to establish peace and end the war.

Two other bombs were thrown at the Turkish and German embassies where there was damage but no casualties, ANSA said.

It said the bombings were carried out within a few minutes of each other.

The ministry spokesman said he was unable to confirm the details of the ANSA report.

Italians

(Continued from page 1)

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told a cabinet meeting in Paris that "now, more than ever, the ultimate decision rests with (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein, who must choose clearly and without delay the evacuation of Kuwait or the continuation of war."

After the United States, Britain and France have the largest fighting forces among Western nations in the anti-Iraq front.

The Andreotti aide, Mr. Cristofori, sidestepped a question about the differences among the allies.

Mr. Andreotti's spokesman, Pio Mastrobuoni, said the premier, in a message to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, stressed that Italian efforts for a peaceful solution should not be seen as "lessened resolve" to meet U.N. objectives.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was reported sceptical about the Soviet plan, but his foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, welcomed the proposal. He said it would let the Soviets participate "on an equal basis in regulating international affairs."

The ANSA news agency said four bombs exploded in the British embassy, causing some damage but no casualties.

## Bombs

(Continued from page 1)

to the Gulf war but said local authorities in Tehran were investigating.

He said one device was thrown at the chancery building in the British embassy compound, shattering windows. The second caused minor damage to residential accommodation.

Britain and Iran restored diplomatic relations last September. Ties were severed for 18 months over Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" which Tehran said blasphemed Islam. Britain reopened its mission in Iran in October.

## Jordanian runs car on cheap cooking gas

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian citizen has discovered a cheaper and more practical way to commute from home to work by using kitchen gas rather than benzene in the car.

Majed Gananeem, 22, said that he was financially suffering from the huge amounts he spends on gasoline using his car from his village in Rumeimeen (near Al Baqa'a) to work in Amman. "I found an old engine and I transferred it to my 1971 model car through a carburetor made of basic materials which are available in Jordan."

This final result took Gananeem three months of trial and error experiments. He said, "I discovered that one bottle of the kitchen gas takes me about 300 kilometres." Therefore, instead of spending about eight Jordanian dinars every 300 kilometres Gananeem said he now spends two Jordanian dinars.

"This study is worth being used in Jordan and the basic materials can be found in the country," Gananeem told the Jordan Times. He added that gas from the Al-Rishe gas field, in eastern Jordan, was suitable for cars.

According to Gananeem, specialists at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) examined the car and its designs in order to make sure the idea was applicable and safe. "They also tested that the exhaust emissions complied with the internationally accepted standards," he said.

Experts at the RSS, who examined the car, said that "scientifically and tactically, the idea is good."

Gananeem, an employee at the Ministry of Education, said he hoped to have his invention patented. "The trade registry at the Ministry of Trade and Industry said that they will register the invention under my name."

Though this means that all gas stations have to be converted into the kitchen gas Gananeem now uses he is "optimistic that it will go through and citizens can be relieved of high expenses on transportation."

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Hassan visits army division

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visited the Fifth Royal Armoured Division where he was received by its commander and several senior officers. After hearing a briefing on the duties assigned to the division, Prince Hassan toured its various formations and units.

### Public works minister forms committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh decided Wednesday to form a committee comprising senior ministry officials to supervise the ministry's engineers training programme. The engineers who can benefit from this programme are those who have obtained their degrees after 1985, according to the ministry sources. The sources said that each trainee would be receiving a JD 100-stipend during the 12-month training period.

### Romanian envoy meets Lawzi, Arabiyat

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi received Wednesday in his office the Romanian ambassador to Jordan, Dimitrie Stancu, who handed him a letter from the Romanian House of Senates speaker. The letter included an invitation for a Jordanian parliamentary delegation to visit Romania and asks for receiving a Romanian parliamentary delegation in Jordan to discuss scopes of enhancing bilateral cooperation. Stancu was also received by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and conveyed to him a similar letter. Lawzi and Arabiyat accepted the invitation and welcomed a visit by a Romanian delegation to Jordan. The dates for both visits will be set later.

### Marine sciences council meets

IRBID (Petra) — The council of the Marine Science Section of the Jordan and Yarmouk universities held a meeting Wednesday at Yarmouk University to discuss the joint researches and studies done under agreements between the station on the one hand and Nice University in France and the Marine Science Centre of Al Basra University in Baghdad on the other. The council also discussed in the meeting, which was chaired by Yarmouk University deputy president for academic affairs, Dr. Mohammad Abu Saleh, the station's budget for the coming period.

### Sudanese press team leaves for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A press team representing the Sudanese media left Amman for Baghdad Wednesday to cover the Gulf crisis. The team aims at informing the Sudanese people and Arab nationals who live in areas which receive the transmission of the Sudanese television and those who receive Sudanese newspapers of the military and political situation in Iraq.

### Madaba Islamic team holds meeting

MADABA (Petra) — The Public Islamic Work Committee in Madaba district held a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of Lower House of Parliament member Abdul Hafiz Allawi. The committee discussed issues related to raising funds for the People's Army and supporting the steadfastness of the Iraqi people.

### Ministry to announce Tawjihi results soon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education will soon announce results of the General Secondary Certificate (Tawjihi) examination for the first semester, according to ministry sources. The sources said that the overall pass rate is within the average of last year. However, a source said, the pass rate for Islamic doctrine, history and science was higher than that of last year.



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## Crucial time for peace

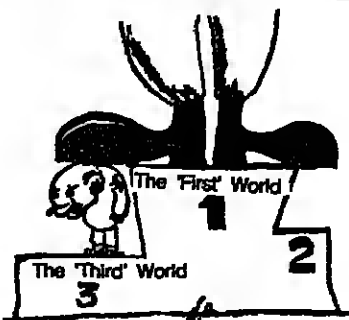
U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush's initial response to the Soviet peace plan for the Gulf crisis appears to be more tactical than final. Having stated that the Moscow formula falls well short of Washington's requirements, it is possible that Bush wanted to convey the impression that he had nothing to do with it and thus make it more acceptable to Baghdad. But beyond that the fact that State Department officials hastened to qualify the president's precipitous reply as not tantamount to rejection fortifies the view that Washington's diplomats at least are inclined to accept the Soviet offer. After all, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has put the prestige of his country on the line by offering a definitive and comprehensive peace plan. There is little doubt that the Soviet president would not have ventured to intervene with such a proposal without sounding out the allied leaders beforehand. The question that presents itself is whether Moscow is in league with Washington to also offer the U.S. a face-saving mechanism to enable it to avoid a bloody and costly ground war.

The answer to this haunting quandary will probably never get answered in the short term. The more probable explanation for the Soviet active and effective involvement in the search for a practical solution for the Kuwaiti conflict, however, can be found in the ongoing backlash in the Soviet Union against this destructive war and U.S. manipulation of the conflict to make it serve only American designs and objectives.

The harshly worded communique issued by TASS Wednesday against the coalition, especially the U.S., in which it was said that the Soviet Union would not sit idle in the face of the ominous developments so close to its borders, is an indication that Moscow is now trying to face head-on the Western conspiracies against Iraq and its regime.

It is, therefore, coincidence that Tehran, Baghdad and Moscow are beginning to see eye to eye over the geopolitical implications of the West's direct military presence in the Gulf region. The convergence of interests between the three countries may very well crystallise into a group that could confront the Western alliance in the Gulf region if the latter rejects the peace offer.

Tehran has already blessed both the Iraqi peace overture announced last week and the Soviet peace formula. Other capitals have or are expected to nod approvingly at the Soviet initiative. With the stakes in the Gulf being raised to new proportions all the time, the alternative to all sides going along with the Moscow plan is simply catastrophic. With this in mind, the Americans may also want to remember that at a time when Iraq has accepted to implement SCR 660, they themselves are walking away from it for no good reason at all.



Sami Al Shabab

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday commented on the new stand of the Soviet Union and said that Moscow's initiative to settle the Gulf crisis has drawn the attention of the whole world. The paper pointed out however, that Moscow was motivated by a number of convictions which it saw as a way out of the deadlock and a means to save the lives of thousands of troops and innocent civilians. Moscow saw in Iraq's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 a ray of hope for peace, realised that the U.S.-led coalition has deviated from its course and exceeded the mandate of the United Nations and began to feel that the United States was in fact trying to encircle the Soviet Union itself by imposing America's hegemony over the Third World and Europe, the paper noted. Indeed the Soviet leadership has started to realise that an end to the cold war should not necessarily mean the beginning of a new era which the United States would exploit to impose its domination on world affairs, the paper continued. When Moscow approved of Security Council Resolution 678 which opened the way for the allied forces to evict the Iraqis from Kuwait by force if need be, it was simply trying to enhance the hand of the international legality which Moscow believes must be the only force and the sole judge in the settlement of world issues, the paper pointed out. It said that when the Soviet Union realised the facts, and saw the devastation of Iraq and the death of innocent civilians, it no doubt moved fast to settle the issue in a manner that would safeguard international legality and at the same time protect Iraq's interests and those of the Soviet Union and other nations of the world.

It was not a surprise to many Arabs to see the United States rejecting the Soviet proposals for ending the war simply because they realise that the real reason behind the conflict is to destroy Iraq's military power and protect Israel, said Al Dustour daily Wednesday. The paper noted that the Iraqi leadership dealt with noticeable care with these proposals and was clever enough to present ideas that seemed acceptable to the Soviets, and were partly endorsed by the Europeans but totally rejected by the U.S.-Israeli alliance. The paper also noted that the Iraqis realised in advance that the Americans would reject the idea of peace but wanted to expose Washington's stand before the Russians who had allied themselves at the beginning with the Americans with regard to the Gulf issue. The paper said also the Washington's reply to the Soviet proposals were represented in the unprecedented intensity of air raids launched on Iraqi cities soon after Moscow made known its ideas to the West.

## Bloodless theatre of war at the Riyadh Hyatt hotel

By Robert Fisk

THERE IS no blood on the floor of the Regency Room at the Hyatt hotel. And although the talk is all of war, there is no hint of pain or fear between the television arc lights and the wood paneled walls.

The ashtrays are regularly emptied. The wall-to-wall carpet is spotless. The flags clustered at one end of the room—American and Saudi and a curious banner labelled "Joint Forces" with a map of the Arabian peninsula in yellow protected by palm leaves—might be stage props in a televised drama. Which is, in one sense, what they are.

The style is informal, sanitised, occasionally infused with laughter. For it is here, under the eyes of the world, that the allied briefers in Riyadh tell reporters how the war is going.

Watch television at your fireside and you will know the faces well; but attending this extraordinary ritual is probably essential to an understanding of its meaning. Old hands say that Saigon's "Five O'clock Polities" had nothing on this, and one can see why.

Brigadier-General Richard Neal, U.S. Deputy Director of Operations, gave the first performance, and he made us feel the war was a world away.

He is a short man with a chunky face who talks wasp-like. "Bartlefield preparation" was still going on, as well as "restrikes of strategic targets." There had been 65,000 sorties "to date" and the allies continued "to interdict... roads, rail and bridge systems."

He divulged that "three TELs were attacked in Saudi-related areas"—a TEL, it transpired, was a Transporter Erector Launcher for a missile

—and there was much snickering when he suggested that there was an Iraqi technician "trying to check his fuel" moments before an allied bomb exploded beside him.

Six Iraqis had surrendered to U.S. forces, Iraq "continues to disregard the Geneva Convention and also the International Committee of the Red Cross." He placed a "high confidence value" on reports that execution squads were roaming behind Iraqi lines to shoot deserters. But what the General really wanted to talk about was pride and the young meo bombing Iraq.

"We've got such kids doing the job... These young kids... Super equipment... Ubeatable combination." He spoke of a "combined arms attack" that was "well-orchestrated" in a "target-rich environment" although he regretted not being able to give us "a good BDA." A BDA is a Bomb Damage Assessment. Was Baghdad airport being used? "I wouldn't buy a ticket on a local airline to go to Baghdad." Much laughter. The General spoke of "a lucrative target" that was "humkered down."

There was, of course, no mention of the suffering of war, least of all was there reference to civilian casualties in Iraq (in wasp-like, "collateral damage.") There was, in fact, no war at all, rather a bank of words from which all reality had been sucked. The speech was packaged, a word which itself appeals to the generals. The Americans now speak, for example, of a "package" when they mean a collection of aircraft participating in a raid.

General Neal is not the only American briefer. There is the

slightly more elegant U.S. Chief of Staff, Major General Robert Johnston, whose experience of the Middle East extends beyond the Gulf. I last saw him chatting to a senior ELO officer in West Beirut in 1982 when, as a Colonel in the 32nd Marine Amphibious Unit, he arrived in Lebanon to help to evacuate the guerrilla army now one of Saddam Hussein's closest allies. I even have a picture of a smiling Johnston shaking hands with a certain Lieutenant-Colonel Basagha Zarab of the Palestine Liberation Army. War is rich in ironies.

But no ironies are allowed to intrude in Riyadh. At the end of Neal's peroration, the floodlights and cameras and tape recorders are switched off for an "off the record" briefing at which, in semi-darkness, exactly the same performers go on talking on condition they are referred to as a "U.S. military source."

We learn then — from a U.S. military source — that road bridges carry communication lines beneath them (thus one reason for their destruction). We even hear that there now exists a group of officially accredited reporters known — heaven spare us all — as the "Saudi debris pool."

The Saudi Colonel recorded the death of a Saudi soldier in a booby trap at Khafji, and a few more Iraqi deserters. He remarked that "the weather in this part of the world is very difficult to predict. Clouds come one day, rain the next day, the sun will rise next day. It's very difficult to predict."

The event ends with the appearance of Air Commodore Ian MacFadyen, Chief of Staff of Headquarters, British Forces Middle East. What he

has to say is very peculiar indeed. He tells us that the Royal Navy is "ever watchful on patrol in the Gulf," but that "life at sea is much the same in peace and war."

For some nofathomable reason, he then starts talking about "Tommy in the desert" and "Ginger on the airfield." It takes a while before we realise that "Ginger" must be a reference to Biggles's closest friend.

"I have to recount a story from my time in the Falklands..." the Air Commodore goes on. The British services are "three large families in which everyone has a part to play." There are, he goes on to assure us, a "very small minority" in Britain against the war. Still no mention of human life and pain. So what would be the Air Commodore's advice to Iraqi civilians who wanted to avoid being accidentally wounded in air raids? "Stay at home," said the Air Commodore. And if they had to travel? "Stay away from bridges." And from roads, too? "As you wish," the Air Commodore replied testily.

It was an uninformative and embarrassing performance. It was also the finale to something which closely approximated — because of the cameras — a stage show.

The allies will have to do better to counter Saddam Hussein's propaganda. It was not that the participants told lies, although what they said was undoubtedly sifted and highly selected as well as rambling.

But it was a form of theatre. And one was reminded, in the end, of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's contention that drama requires a "willing suspension of disbelief." — The Independent

## LETTERS

### Watch out for the superior race

To the Editor:

IF one measures superiority by freeways, big cars, electronic gadgets and nuclear weapons, then the Americans are indeed superior. But let us take a closer look at the other face of this superior race.

They group people and judge them by race. For instance African-Americans are called "niggers" or the moderate Americans call them "blacks."

They are the ethnic group that suffered the most for the past two hundred years. Strides have been made in their plight but they still face discrimination today.

Ask African-Americans about it and they will tell you. And for the American "whites" who don't believe what I'm saying, ask yourselves a simple question, how would you feel if your daughter came home with a "black" boyfriend. You know exactly what I'm talking about.

When Tom Bradley ran for the governorship of California many "whites" were saying "if Bradley wins I will move out of California." For those who don't know, Tom Bradley was the first African-American to be elected as the mayor of Los Angeles and a good one at that.

A retired "white" colonel and a veteran of the Vietnam and Korea wars said on national television that the official unwritten American policy was to concentrate "black" and "hispanic" troops on the front lines to absorb most of casualties.

Another example is the recent Senate race of Helms versus Gant in North Carolina. Gant was way ahead in the polls but when it came down to it, the "whites" could not vote for a "black" senator, so Gant lost.

Hispanic and Mexican Americans are called "wet-backs" and according to the "white" boys from the south "all wet-backs can do in life is pick lettuce."

A Hispanic ex-marine said that during his years of service he had to physically defend himself many times from the fellow "white" marines who wanted to kick the butts of "wet-backs" and "niggers." These feelings of the "white" boys come out especially when they are drunk. He said that he learned two mottos out of his service in the marines, "might is right" and "if you ain't white you got no right."

Native Americans are called "Indians" and pronounced "ind-jans." These people were dehumanised, killed and driven out of their lands so the "American democracy" can be built on their land. In recent history we can see that the Israelis are using parallel methods within the Palestinians. However, the Israelis have a new subtle cover for these methods to fit the modern times.

Asian-Americans are called "gooks." And many "white" American military experts believe that if the Japanese people were "white" the Americans would have thought twice before dropping the nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

And last but not least Arab Americans or as they are called "camel jockeys." Arabs have been pictured in the American media as filthy rich, ugly and stupid. Even the bad guys in children's cartoons wore the Arab national dress and headcover.

So how come the Americans are sending their boys to die for the oil-sheikhs. Is it democracy they are talking about or is it the oil, or is the interest of the American defence contractors or is it defending the poor Israelis??

Most of the Westerners will tell you it is about Kuwait and international legitimacy. Where was international legitimacy sleeping when the U.S. invaded Panama, Grenada and East Asia, where was international legitimacy when Israel occupied parts of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria and systematically dehumanised the Palestinians?

Where was international legitimacy when Turkey occupied part of Cyprus?

The question is what is international legitimacy and when does it apply.

Other names that are synonymous with "camel jockeys" are "Arabs" and "rag-heads."

By the way, the Americans find "desert storm" a great opportunity to try their new weapons on the "camel jockey" civilians using "camel jockey" money. It is a win-win deal isn't it? Or is it a party like an American general described it?

For all the "white" Americans out there, when you look at your beautiful white face and blonde hair in the mirror, look a little deeper than skin and ask yourselves a simple question "what makes me better than a "nigger" or "gook" or "indian" or "wet-back" or a "camel jockey"??"

Rula Darwazeh,  
Amman.

### What international law?

The following is a letter sent recently by Yarmouk University faculty members to the U.N. Secretary General, the UNESCO Director General, the official spokesman of the House of Representatives and the Senate of USA Congress, the official spokesman of the British House of Lords and House of Commons and the President of the French National Assembly.

Your Excellency,

WE, the undersigned faculty members at Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan, feel very much enraged by the late developments of the current war in the Gulf. The U.S.-led coalition forces have been incessantly and indiscriminately bombing Baghdad and other Iraqi cities under the pretext of international law and a number of manipulated U.N. Security Council resolutions, the latest and most infamous of which allowing the allied powers to use force in order to "restore Kuwait."

However, instead of fighting the Iraqi armed forces in Kuwait, the allies have sent over two thousand aircraft to indiscriminately bomb everything in Iraq. This destructive campaign against the peaceful people of Iraq demonstrates the real intentions of the U.S. and its imperialist and Zionist partners. The most naive observer can notice that the American and European forces are not there to implement international law, but to nullify Iraq as a regional force in the Middle East.

These air attacks hideously strike cultural, religious, academic, scientific, and economic installations and sites, among other targets. Such targets include residential areas, formula milk factories, Muslim shrines, Christian churches, museums, and academic and educational institutions.

We would like to remind you that the destruction of the Shiite shrines of Najaf and Karbala, the historic St. Thomas church of Nineveh, and the National Museum of Baghdad is not going to help "restore the legitimate rule of Kuwait"; nor does it help implement the U.N. Security Council resolutions. Please remember that the cultural monuments and the legacy of human achievements in Iraq serve, and belong to, the civilised world at large.

What we are sure of is that the killing of the innocent citizens of Iraq and the devastation of their achievements will definitely lead to bitterness on the part of Arabs and Muslims around the world; bitterness that can breed only deep rancour against the West and western interests which has never been witnessed since the Crusades.

Needless to say that the ongoing conflict is expected to lead to an ecological disaster that can adversely affect humanity at large if the oil wells were burned in the Gulf area. Emanating pollutants such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and sulphur dioxide are poisonous to air, to soil, to water resources, and more importantly to human life.

Therefore, we urge you to uphold ethical human values and deplore that air raids and all other attacks on residential, cultural, religious, and archaeological sites in Iraq. We further urge you to multiply your efforts to stop this disastrous war and to help halt bloodshed in the Gulf.

Yarmouk faculty members,  
A number of signatures,  
Irbid.

## Profits of doom

By Safwan Bataineh

"Ever will a coward show no mercy"  
— Sir Thomas Malory

THE ARAB World is obsessed with a nagging suspicion that the indecent haste with which the United States and Britain rushed a massive army and all the hoards of space age weaponry to the Gulf was motivated by something less lofty than moral dictates. Here are some checks, but not far-fetched, surmises as to the true motives of the Anglo-American duo.

During the spring of 1990, the economies of the U.S. and Britain started slipping into recession together in stark contrast with the robust economies of such over-achievers as Japan and Germany, which continued to steam ahead past the two slothful cronies. Determined that the collapse of communism and the "evil empire" should bear the sweet fruits of moral vindication, and usher in an Anglo-American renaissance of global mastery, the two bastions of democratic capitalism then drew up a grandiose plan for the restoration of political and economic supremacy.

The plan had a single cardinal purpose: to eliminate global competition; be it wesseling Europeans, nouveau riche East Asians, or anyone who does not have the good sense to speak the English language. An intermediate and prefatory objective was to fabricate a crisis enabling America to demonstrate paramount military prowess and thus reduce Western "allies" and other cowering nations into a band of cheerleaders. Someone, a Brit in all probabilities, came up with a doozy of an idea. Surveying the landscape of the Gulf region, he dusts off some old plans and adds in a few clever wrinkles of his own. A catalyst, a few stooges, and boards of cash were needed for the implementation, and they were readily available. Iraq had recently emerged from an eight-year old war fought in defence of whatever Arab order was in existence at the time. The country was deeply in debt and needed to maintain a large and efficient army that was probably the sole asset of the Fertile Crescent. So when economic and political strangulation was applied by the U.S. and Britain with the dutiful participation of Kuwait and other regional "friendlies," the Iraqi ruler reacted predictably, encouraged as it seems by hints that the U.S. would not intervene, and prompted by signs of an eminent American landing in Kuwait.

The stage was thereby set for the upcoming play. America began whipping everybody in line, improvising some gibberish about a new world order as she bulldozed ahead. Sometimes she grunted; sometimes she just growled; and often she paid for loyalty and sent the bill to a Gulf address. And when the war eventually broke out, it took the shape of an incessant and merciless bombing campaign, designed to reduce Iraq's infrastructure into rubble. America and her British side-kick went on a spree of carnage and destruction. Lacking the courage that is borne only out of true convictions, their mercenary army hurried satanic Star War ordnance from the safety of distant waters and the lower stratosphere, reverting life below back into the Middle Ages.

The spoils of war are in abundance for the latter day Bonnie and Clyde. Since every expended cartridge is paid for by the Arabian hosts and other subordinated friends, the flagging weapon industry is to be revived again with multi-billion dollar orders to replace expended material and supply captive markets all over the world. The Gulf fields are to be forked out billions to Anglo-American firms to rebuild that which has been destroyed by Anglo-American planes. Every British official on visit to Saudi Arabia and the emir of Kuwait has taken with him a team of businessmen brandishing maps of infrastructure already damaged or soon to be so. Mr. Baker went a step further, albeit in a less callous fashion, when he proposed a Gulf development and reconstruction bank, financed by the Gulf countries. The idea being that Anglo-American firms are assigned construction jobs in Iraq itself after the war. Other benefits to the merchants of death include lower oil prices, advantageous trade relationships, etc., etc. But the biggest prize America hopes to win is to emasculate and break-down the spirit of the Third World and dominate successful nations in order to rearrange the activities and linkages of a rapidly amalgamating world economy to her advantage.

If such an interpretation of events sounds plausible to you, then may God have mercy upon you. Armageddon is here, and the final struggle is being fought between the sinister powers of greed, supported by high-technology and cold logic, and the innocent aspirations of the meek, frustrated by retarded institutions. However, all is not lost should the innocent rally to the battlefield. For, united, the meek shall inherit the earth.

### Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

hard times, it's also helping non-refugee Palestinians.

Mr. Tucci said food also was distributed Wednesday to villages around Hebron and the Faraa refugee camp outside Nablus. But distribution was blocked in two other places due to arguments with the army "that we hope to sort out," he said.

Also in Bethlehem Wednesday, soldiers escorted journalists to a Palestinian elementary school that was reopened for the first time since the start of the Gulf war.

Kindergarten through sixth-grade students have been allowed to return to school in some areas, but most of the 500,000 students in the occupied territories remain at home.

### Levy

(Continued from page 1)

"If they don't want this, that's their business. Israel is aspiring for peace. That's the sacred and central target of all our activities," Mr. Levy added.

Israelis are overwhelmingly behind their government's policy of not retaliating against Iraqi Scud missile attacks, according to an opinion poll released Wednesday.

A survey of 500 people by the Louis Guttman Institute of Applied Social Research found 80 per cent of respondents supported the restraint policy, a percentage maintained since the start of the war.

Asked last week how they assessed their government's handling of the situation, 74 per cent were positive.

That percentage was down from 94 per cent just after the

Gulf war erupted on Jan. 17 but far above the 20 per cent who gave the government the same marks in November.

### Hammadi

(Continued from page 1)

Qichen and Vice Premier Wu Xueqian, a former foreign minister. He had arrived late Tuesday.

The Iraqi minister did not speak to reporters at the airport.

The Xinhua news agency said the Iraqi delegation left for home. Diplomats had speculated they would go to India first.

"Li Peng said that China has noticed Iraq's first gesture of withdrawing its troops from Kuwait and considered it a 'positive change,'" the agency said.

The agency said Mr. Li warned Dr. Hammadi that any escalation of war would cause great damage and losses, including civilian deaths.

"We feel grieved and anxious about all this," Mr. Li said.

The agency said Mr. Li expressed his support "for all efforts of the international community to prevent the war escalation and seek a peaceful settlement."

Diplomats here had speculated that Iraq wanted China's support for a Soviet peace plan delivered in Moscow Monday to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, while others thought Dr. Hammadi hoped to get China's help in getting a better settlement.

China joined other members of the Security Council in condemning Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and imposing a trade embargo against Iraq. But it abstained from the Security Council vote that authorised the use of force against Iraq.

Since war broke out, China has sought to distance itself from the allies. It fears the war will leave the United States the dominant power in the Middle East and the world.



# Jordan Times WEEKENDER

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## Scuds sent some 'scuddering' but many 'scud' over it in Jordan

By Sana Atiyeh

IRAQI MISSILES fired at Israel may or may not have been very accurate in finding the right targets, but they have not missed the Jordanian society. If anything, they have hit the right spots in Jordanian sentiments and "madness" has found its place in Jordanian history.

Call it what you will, Al Hussein, Al Abbas and what not, but the term "Scud" is here to stay, whether at the office-shops of posh Shmeisani and Jabal Amman or the felafeel kiosks in the squalid refugee camps outside the capital.

Seen as the symbol of the new-found Arab power, undermining the decades-old Israeli military invincibility, the Soviet-made Scud developed by the Iraqis represents a source of pride for many in Jordan.

If that is not enough, even some journalists, including some Japanese and Europeans, have resorted to decorating themselves with Scud-shaped brooches and

ear-rings (if only, perhaps, to ensure the sympathy of Arabs around them).

The "missile of the sixties" — Al Hussein as the Iraqis call it after developing it in terms of range and payload — has become an inevitable feature of any demonstration in the country. One of them was even tossed over the wall of the American embassy during a protest rally last week.

"I love Scud" — is an expression heard whenever an air raid siren goes on in Israel as relayed by Israel Television. It does not matter where it lands. It is enough that it keeps the Israelis awake entire nights just as Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships deprived the residents of South Lebanon — particularly the Palestinian camps there — of sleep and sent them hurrying into whatever shelter they could find.

Scuds have spawned dozens of jokes and ironies in Jordan. For instance:

"How many does it take to fire a Scud?" Four — three to launch it and one to call

CNN.

"How do you treat a Saudi or Israeli suffering from Scud fever?"

Offer a Patriot suppository.

"What is a souvenir from the war?"

A Scudnir  
"What should the Uncle Sam's restaurant be renamed?" "Uncle Scud" (Uncle Saddam is another suggestion).

In fact, so many in Jordan think the term Scud should now be included in the dictionary not only as a noun but also as verb and adjective. Here is how might be defined:

Scud (noun). pl. Scuds: Synonyms: Al Hussein, Al Abbas. 1. A Soviet-made missile developed by Iraq; used against Israel, Saudi Arabia, or any other country it could reach if it is Iraq's enemy during war. 2. Carries conventional or other warheads: "A Scud; landed on Israel causing no damage or injuries." 3. Scudism; School of Scud thought. 4. Used to



express happiness: "What a Scud."

Scud (adj) Characteristics pertaining to a Scud, positively or negatively. To express anger: "Get lost, Scud-face," and "What a Scud bag." Positive: "Let's Scud

together tonight."

Scud (verb). Scuds, scudded, scudding. To launch an Iraqi missile on your enemy. "Saddam likes to Scud Israel, Saddam likes scudding Israel," Iraq scudded Israel very nicely tonight."

Scud (adverb) Scudly: "This is a scudly war." Scud (slang) Used in various expressions; in question form: "What the Scud is going on?" In exclamation: "Scud off!" In descriptive form: "You mother-scudder."

## Chinese soothsayers predict instability during Year of the Ram

By Kathy Chen

HONG KONG — Leaders will die in China, women will win more power in government and the price of chicken will rise in Hong Kong — but what soothsayers are predicting for the Year of the Ram.

People hoping for a respite from the tumult and upheaval of the Year of the Horse will be disappointed with the Year of the Ram — also known as the Year of the Goat or Goat — which begins on Feb. 15 according to the Western calendar.

Economic and political instability will continue throughout the world, though Hong Kong and Asia will be less affected. Wars, droughts and other natural disasters will wreak havoc.

"People think the sheep is by nature, but when it is provoked, it will be angry and fight to the last," said a money expert and former lego lecturer Sung Siu-ting.

Such will be the case this year, so people should wait and save their energy for the three years which will be of confidence.

The ram is the eighth sign in the Chinese Zodiac which is in cycles of 12, each with different characteristics and a different animal as its symbol.

Those born under the ram are "lively, sincere and unyielding." At best they are artistic, fashionable and free. At worst they are emotional, pessimistic and withdrawn.

The year is further shaped by five elements. This year's element, metal or signifies strength, wealth and lack of emotion, said.

Year of the Ram will be a conclusion to the.

Gulf war, unrest in the Soviet Union and conflict between Israel and Arab nations will intensify.

Some fortune tellers predict a second war. "In March, a war will break out, but it will be of a religious nature and not related to the crisis in the Gulf," said Paul Lam.

Like the rest of the world, Hong Kong and China will be plagued by natural disaster, but they will be spared the political and economic gloom.

"Everything will go crazy in Hong Kong, including the stock market. Business will be buoyant," reads Chung Ying Tong's "Year of the Ram Fortune-Telling Book," one of several booklets being snapped up by Hong Kong residents.

Superstition runs high in the colony, where residents consulting fortune tellers must sometimes book up to a year in advance. Hourly fees for the more popular soothsayers can run into thousands of Hong Kong dollars.

China's lagging tourism industry will enjoy a revival, as Chinese from all over the world flock to the mainland to rediscover their roots, said Lam.

Soothsayer Tony Kwong, who has his own weekly television show in Hong Kong, predicted political change in China. "Leaders will die and women will gain more power," he said.

But this will not alter the fate of Hong Kong residents, already nervous about the British colony being handed over to Peking in 1997.

"They will be like sheep at the butcher's mercy," Lam divined ominously.

Hemlines will rise, along with hairlines, the price of chicken, July's gold prices and the number of AIDS cases, fortune tellers predicted.

By Joseph Neff  
The Associated Press

PRINCETON, New Jersey — Sometime in the next 10 years, Jim Gunn plans on putting the universe in a desk drawer.

An astronomer at Princeton University, Gunn supplies the smarts and designs the gizmos for the digital sky survey, the biggest and most comprehensive road map of the universe ever attempted.

Eventually, astronomers will have mapped about 1 million galaxies (of the universe's 250-million-plus) as well as 100,000 quasars — extraordinarily bright objects whose light streams from the dawn of the universe 10 billion to 20 billion years ago.

Gunn anticipates the map will fit on about 100 laser discs, similar to stereo compact discs, though computer technology may change in the coming decade.

"So the whole idea is to have this universe that you could put in a desk drawer," Gunn said in an interview in his cluttered office, where posters of Verdi operas hang next to stellar-galactic graphs. "We'd like to do it cheaply enough so that every working professional astronomer can have a copy."

At a cost of \$20 million, including \$15 million to build a telescope, it is cheap when compared with multibillion-dollar projects like the Hubble telescope or the superconducting Super Collider.

Gunn's father, an itinerant oil prospector in Texas, gave him his first astronomy book — "The Stars For Sam" — at age 7. Gunn next devoured a college textbook on astronomy, and before he was 8 he built his first telescope, with his father's help.

Gunn never outgrew his boyhood fascination. In the world of astronomy, as chronicled in Richard Preston's "First Light," he's known as a master gadgeteer —

equal parts tinker and theorist, a cosmologist as comfortable theorizing about quasars as soldering the innards of a recalcitrant telescope.

One noted Gunn creation is his "4-shooter," a special scanning camera that helps the giant 200-inch (500-centimeter) Hale telescope in California peer into deep space.

Hermetically sealed in a gold canister at the heart of the 4-shooter are four charged-coupling devices, tiny solid-state television cameras often found in spy satellites.

"The sorry fact is that we know so little about the universe nearby in any complete statistical sense," Gunn said. "You will have spent millions and millions of dollars to study these things very far away and you won't have the comparison data."

The parsimonious Gunn improvised the rest of the camera from less costly items: Junk motors bought on the cheap, piano wire, movie projector belts and a broken razor blade. When strapped to the Hale, it can see a lit cigarette 700 miles away.

Gunn put his work with the Hale to use designing the sky survey's 100-inch (250-centimeter) "smart" telescope, which will perch atop the Sacramento Mountains in New Mexico.

Light in the form of photons from those million galaxies will fall on a Gunn-designed camera whose 30 charged-coupling devices convert the light to electrical signals.

Special software will analyze the data, sort the celestial objects into galaxies, stars and quasars and produce a two-dimensional map. By feeding the data through special optical fibers, scientists will enjoy a spectrograph of each object.

By reading the spectrographs, scientists can add a third dimension — distance — to each object, as well as a fourth, its age.

But it's not all numbers and graphs. Astronomers will be able to pop a laser disc into a video player and pull up pictures of every corner of

how the universe came into being.

When exploring the evolution of the universe, astronomers turn their gaze to the farthest objects, whose light emanates from some time near the "big bang," the theorized explosive birth of the universe.

Gunn argues that this type of study takes place in a near-vacuum without a solid knowledge of the "nearby" universe — comparable to a New Yorker making detailed maps of a faraway village while navigating around New York City with a sketch of the interstate system.

"The sorry fact is that we know so little about the universe nearby in any complete statistical sense," Gunn said. "You will have spent millions and millions of dollars to study these things very far away and you won't have the comparison data."

Like a census, the sky survey will also give a detailed survey of the heaven's population.

Scientists compare the universe to a slowly expanding sponge — clusters of galaxies form the sponge, voids of as yet unexplained "dark matter" make up the holes and the whole work expands like rising dough as galaxies move apart from each other.

Astronomers will use the survey to determine the nature of galaxies, which, like people, differ according to their environment.

For example, the Milky Way is a relatively sparsely populated corner of the universe. With some room to expand, the Milky Way developed long spiral arms.

In more crowded parts of the cosmos, stars are crushed together into egg-shaped and elliptical galaxies.

So, will this map be of use to some future interstellar explorer?

Gunn demurred. "I'm not prepared to say we will never do it, but it's going to be a while."

## A voice of youth

By E. Yaghi

DAY 26 of the Gulf war: Much has been happening since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. Many innocent Arab civilians have died. Many more have been wounded. Iraq is a devastated country with broken homes and shattered bones. We here in Jordan, feel great compassion for our Iraqi brothers and sisters. But, what about our youth? How do they feel? Our youths are Jordan's hope for the future. Within them is situated the key to a better tomorrow. With this thought in mind, I asked one such Jordanian youth his views concerning the Gulf war. The following is an exclusive interview with a young man named Nizar. He is a 15-year-old student who is in the tenth grade and attends a high school in our beautiful city of Amman.

When asked what he thought about the Gulf war, he replied, "there was no need for this war, yet it happened. Now we must pray for victory and help the Iraqi people with money, food and medicine. We must also help them to fight, because it's not right to stand idly by and watch them suffer."

What did he think was the cause of war? "George Bush doesn't really care about the freedom of the Kuwaitis," he said as his dark green eyes flashed with anger. "The Americans came to the Gulf region for 3 reasons. (1) to destroy Iraq's military power, (2) to protect their friend, Israel, and (3) to secure Arab oil for themselves."

When asked what kind of life he thought the Iraqi children are living under constant bombardment, he sat in deep concentration, trying to comprehend their situation and then said, "The Iraqi children live in fear and sadness. They wonder what caused the war. There is no hope for them and no schools so they can't study or in any way lead normal lives."

Is this a just war? "There are 28 countries confronting one small country, but in spite of this, Iraq is still determined to fight their enemies and defeat them."

What did he think George Bush's plan is? "Bush's plan is to defeat Iraq and then occupy and divide the region, to try to spread Western power and influence and to enchain a new generation under an occupying grip like the Palestinians under Israeli occupation if not worse."

When asked what he thought of Saddam Hussein, his eyes grew bigger, his sad expression changed and his thick lashes blinked with excitement. "He is a very clever man who knows what he is doing. He has lifted up the heads of all decent Arab people. I think he should not only have occupied Kuwait but Saudi Arabia and the Emirates as well so he could have an Arab union. He would rule with more justice than Fahd and his friends because he is a good leader like Salaheddin."

Nizar shifted his weight as he patiently took his time to answer further questions. Is the Gulf war having an effect on the youth of Palestine under occupation? "The young get happy when an Iraqi missile is fired on an Israeli settlement because all Palestinians have suffered a great deal, especially the children. Whenever a missile strikes, this is a step in liberating Palestine."

His face grew intense and he continued "All Palestinians have suffered immensely under Israeli rule. There have been arrests, beatings, torture, killings, expulsions and imprisonment without trial. Under the present imposed curfew, people can't leave their houses. Food is running low. If babies and children become sick, they cannot receive treatment. There is no medical assistance for anyone. The Palestinians are in effect being punished because of their nationality and because of the Gulf war."

As he sat, he levelled his chin firmly on the palm of his hand and waited for the next question, his tall thin frame hunched over. Is there a chance now for peace? "I think the war will spread to include all the surrounding region as well as North Africa. The American-led coalition will not stop its war machine because they want to destroy Iraq. Other countries will eventually be dragged into the war. President Bush doesn't care about his own soldiers, he only cares about himself. He is being pressured by Zionists to continue this war, but the Iraqis will fight until the last soldier because they are brave people and are convinced about what they are doing."

These are the surprisingly well-informed views of Nizar, who, besides being a Jordanian, is also a third generation Palestinian refugee. He is one of the many voices of our Jordanian youth. But, however interested he was in conducting this interview, he was anxious to return to his own affairs and set out for his weekly taekwondo lessons. Nevertheless, like all other Jordanian youth, the Gulf war is always a stark reality hovering over him and he knows that the threat of war hangs over all our heads and is a black disgraceful shadow in every Arab's mind and life.

## Can humanity survive?

By Lara Philipp

I walked through the modern hospital doors and headed for the reception. I asked for directions and the nurse led me to the Intensive Care Unit. And there she was.

Humanity lay there motionless behind the glass doors. The respirator monotonously working while another machine monitored her heart beat. It was then, as I stood there, that it all came back to me.

I remembered the stories I'd heard of ages past. Humanity's presence was strongly felt then. In every heart there was a trace of her. Year in and year out she made people care for each other and worry about each others' fates. She reconciled nations and bridged the world. She gave orphans a chance for happiness and filled the days of the elderly. She was really special.

Yet, there always were those who tried to avoid her and repress her from their thoughts. Their hearts were covered with layer of stone and steel so that Humanity could not sneak in. They were out to destroy her. For centuries she survived, weakening with time as blow after blow she endured.

But we gave her the final strike. Our century has made her suffer the most. She endured our world wars, and lived observing the continued destruction thereafter. Starvation, death, illness yet lack of care were killing her bit by bit.

And now, there she lies taking in automated breath after the next. She is in a coma and only we can save her. Her chances are slim but if we give her back just a bit of what she has for centuries given us, she just might make it. After all she was meant to be immortal. So we just can't let her go without trying. We can't let Humanity die.



# Coffee

By Maha Addasi

One third of the world's population drink coffee. And they drink coffee more than any other beverage. In fact coffee is included on every restaurant's menu around the world.

According to modern research, coffee has no nutritive value whatsoever but it may be a vehicle for large intakes of sugar, and milk.

Nevertheless people have continued to drink coffee at an average of one-and-a-half-litres per day in the form of cappuccino, espresso, Arabic coffee, cafe au lait, American, percolated, instant, decaffeinated, with or without sugar or cream.

In short coffee has long since passed the margin of being a habit. In fact it has been incorporated itself into an international tradition.

The best excuse: "Don't talk to me before my first cup of coffee."

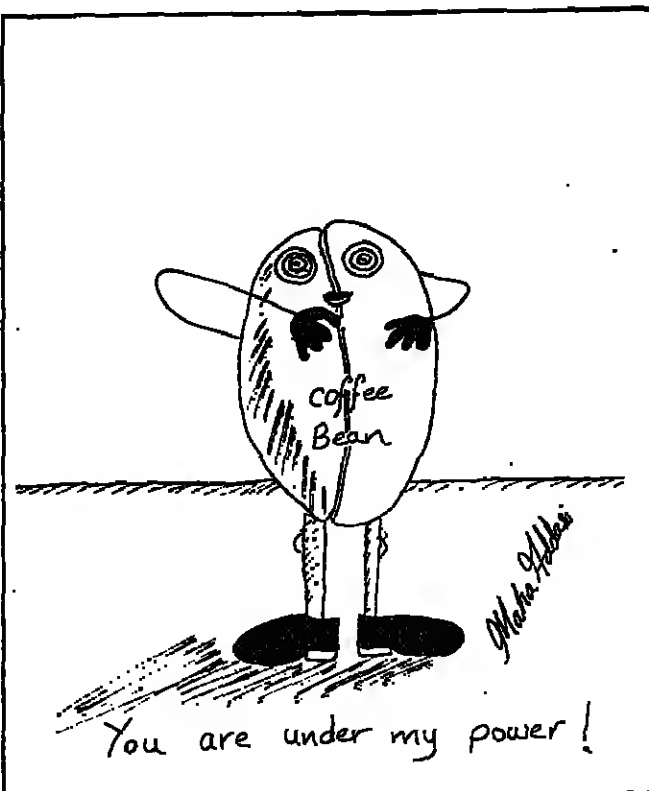
Or the smoothest way to get rid of your guests, because once the coffee is brought out you know that the visit is almost over.

It is a double edged weapon. It is the welcoming gesture for these guests and the cue for their exit.

Then there are the people who would miss any notes made out to them unless the notes were placed on the coffee percolator. I mean, you could leave a message on a banner right outside that person's room saying "happy birthday" and they could walk right through it and sleep-walk to the kitchen to make coffee.

Then there are those people who live for the morning gossip sessions with their friends but who, for some reason, can not drink coffee. Listening to people talk about what the doctor said makes you, feel sorry for them. So the ladies are at their "gathering" and the host asks whether the "gang" would like another round of coffee. Of course many smile and cheer, but there is a twinge that one person who, in a hushed tone, would say that her physician told her she can't drink coffee. And she expresses this news in such a way that if you hadn't heard the first part of the conversation you would think that this woman was talking about how her physician told her she will lose a limb, or something. Even when the host offers to make some tea for this guest, the guest tells her that tea is just not the same.

My friend's grandmother, who is 85 years old, was told that she could once again drink coffee, after she was kept from drinking it for years because of high blood pressure.



According to her granddaughter the physician felt that it would be too cruel for that lady, in the last years of her life, to be forbidden from something she loves so much.

"You would think that after not drinking coffee for so many years she would no longer like it," her granddaughter said. "But you should see her now. She drinks coffee from the minute she is up until the minute she goes to sleep. We are almost afraid to leave her with a jar of ground coffee in sight, fearing she would eat some ground coffee with a spoon, dry!"

Imagine mankind being under the powers of a bean! Do not imagine it, it is too late for that because it is already a reality. Some people are definitely addicted to coffee. So next time you want to leave a message for those people, you can do that in different ways. You either call them or you write a banner that says "sorry, we're out of coffee!" That way they can't miss the message.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### Thursday, Feb. 21

1916 — Battle of Verdun in France begins in World War I — the longest and bloodiest battle of the war with more than one million killed.

1919 — Bavarian Premier Kurt Riser is assassinated in Munich.

1922 — British protectorate in Egypt ends.

1934 — French troops combat Berbers in south west Morocco.

1943 — Britain's King George VI awards Sword of Honour to Russians for defence of Stalingrad in World War II.

1963 — Soviet Union warns United States that an American attack on Cuba would mean world war.

1975 — 33-member U.N. Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland, accuses Israel of violating "basic norms of international law" in Arab territories it occupies.

1986 — South Africa government opens "whites only" downtown districts of Johannesburg and Durban to all races — first break with apartheid policy of segregation business areas.

1989 — Muslim rebels fire rockets into Afghanistan capital of Kabul, killing one person and injuring three others.

1990 — Cambodian Premier Hun Sen holds peace talks with Prince Sihanouk in Bangkok, Thailand.

### Friday, Feb. 22

1828 — Peace of Turkmenchay by which Persia cedes part of Armenia, including Erivan, to Russia.

1848 — Revolt erupts in Paris due to failure of Louis Philippe's reign.

1942 — It is announced that tribesmen in the Philippines have wiped out a Japanese regime during World War II.

1945 — U.S. third army crosses Saar River south of Saarburg, Germany, in World War II.

1964 — Ghana becomes one-party Socialist state.

1966 — Uganda's Prime Minister Milton Obote orders five cabinet members

arrested and assumes full power.

1975 — Military government of Ethiopia announces that 2,300 guerrillas have been killed in fighting in Eritrea.

### Saturday, Feb. 23

1660 — Sweden's King Charles IX executes leaders of pro-Polish party for treason.

1766 — Duchy of Lorraine is incorporated into France.

1820 — Cato Street conspiracy to murder British cabinet minister is discovered.

1836 — Siege of the Alamo begins in U.S. state of Texas against Mexican attackers.

1854 — Britain agrees to leave territory north of Orange River in South Africa, allowing for establishment of constitution for Orange Free State.

1901 — Britain and Germany agree on boundary between German East Africa and Nyasaland.

1933 — Japan begins occupation of China north of the Great Wall.

1942 — Japanese submarine shells oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California (U.S.).

1964 — Britain recognises President Abdul Amari Karume's regime in Zan-zibar.

1970 — Republic of Guyana, formerly British Guiana, formally ends association with Britain but remains within Commonwealth.

1973 — Fighting continues in Laos despite peace agreement between Laotian government and Communist-led Pathet Lao.

1975 — U.S. decision to end arms embargo against Pakistan draws wrath of India, which cancels planned March meeting in Washington D.C.

1989 — Japan bids farewell to Emperor Hirohito with series of centuries-old court and religious funeral services.

1990 — Prince Sihanouk returns to Cambodia after 11 years in exile.

### Sunday, Feb. 24

1525 — Spanish army, us-

ing muskets for first time in war, route French and Swiss forces at Pavia, Italy, as 14,000 men are slain in battle.

1530 — Charles V is crowned Holy Roman emperor and king of Italy by Pope Clement VII at Bologna — the last imperial coronation by a Pope.

1563 — Duke of Guise is killed at Orleans in French civil war.

1656 — Spain declares war on England.

1824 — Governor-general of India declares war on Burmese after British East India Company territory is violated.

1825 — Egyptian forces begin landing in Morea, Greece.

1826 — By treaty of Yandabu, ending Burmese war, Burmese pay indemnity and British resident is established at Ava.

1891 — China pays indemnity to Russia for return of Ili Valley in northwest China.

1920 — Nazis party is organized in Germany.

1945 — Egypt's Premier Ahmad Pasha is assassinated after announcing Egypt's declaration of war against Germany; U.S. troops liberate Philippine capital of Manila from Japanese occupation during World War II.

1962 — At least 25 people, most of them Muslims are slain during attacks in Algiers.

1966 — Coup by armed forces of Ghana deposes President Kwame Nkrumah while he is out of country en route to China.

1986 — U.S. President Ronald Reagan requests that President Ferdinand E. Marcos of troubled Philippines step down after 20 years in power.

1989 — Japan's Emperor Hirohito is buried after world leaders pay final respects.

1990 — Candidates favouring independence run well in elections to the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania.

### Monday, Feb. 25

1948 — Communist coup in Czechoslovakia.

1954 — Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser takes power as

premier of Egypt; Syria's President Chikckeli flees following army revolt.

1956 — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev goes before Communist Party congress in Moscow and denounces late dictator Joseph Stalin.

1976 — United States vetoes United Nations resolution deploring Israel's annexation of Jerusalem.

1978 — United States cautions Soviet Union that continued Soviet military involvement in Ethiopia-Somalia conflict could impair Soviet-U.S. relations.

1986 — Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos resigns, brought down by a "peoples power" uprising, military revolt, and U.S. pressure.

1988 — Thousands demonstrate in Soviet Armenia despite directive to local authorities to restore order.

### Tuesday, Feb. 26

1968 — Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban announces that Israel has agreed to what he calls "a form of negotiations" with Arabs.

1974 — Ethiopian army units seize Asmara, second largest city in Ethiopia, and demand better pay and living conditions.

1986 — New Philippines President Corazon Aquino asks supporters of deposed leader Ferdinand E. Marcos for their cooperation in task of rebuilding country.

1987 — Afghan aircraft bomb two Pakistani border villages, killing at least 35 people and injuring more than 200 others.

1988 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev makes unprecedented appeal for calm in pre-est-plagued Soviet Republic of Armenia.

1989 — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini meets with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for talks centering on Islam.

1990 — Nicaragua's 14-party opposition coalition led by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro scores stunning upset victory over Daniel Ortega's Sandinistas.

By The Associated Press

## World's first headhunting exhibition draws crowds

By Lai Kwok Kin

Reuter

KUALA LUMPUR — Looking for a wife? First chop off someone's head.

Then eat the brains and cheek skin to make you brave, and smoke the head over a slow fire.

The customs of the Ibans of Malaysia's Sarawak state on Borneo Island and of other cultures down the centuries are being graphically depicted at what is claimed to be the world's first headhunting exhibition.

A rare collection of over 100 heads of various shapes and sizes — cooked, scalped, smoked or shrunk — is drawing hundreds of visitors daily to Malaysia's National Museum.

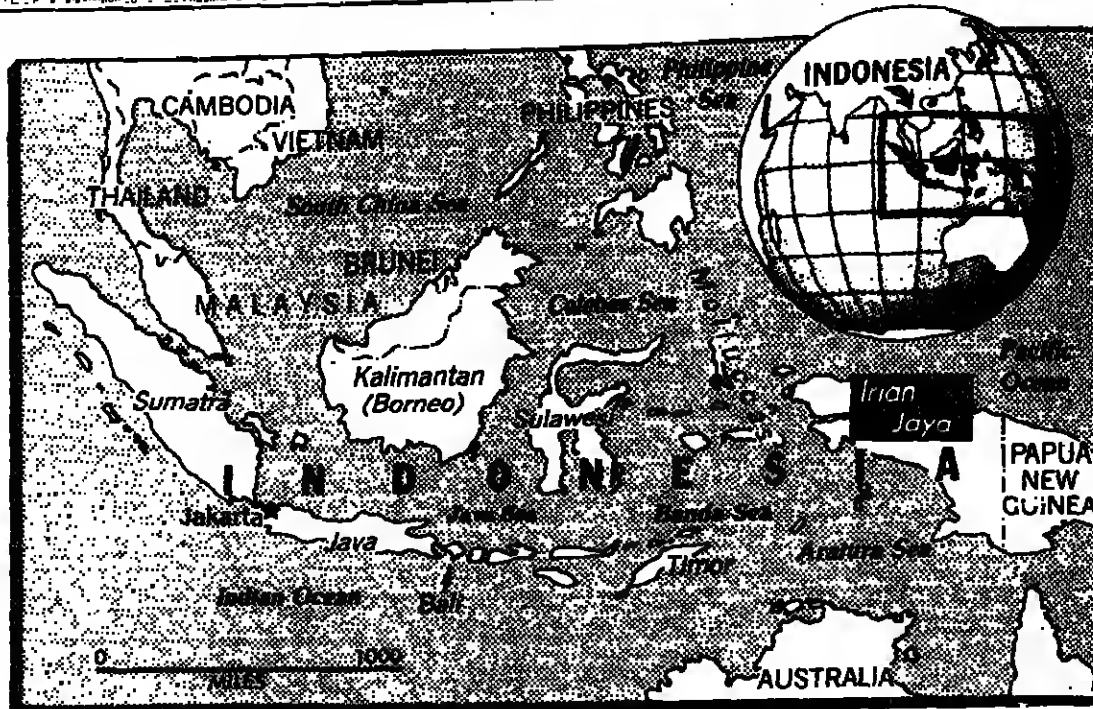
"People often misunderstand pre-modern culture. They think it was barbaric to hunt for heads. I wanted to show that headhunting was a universal practice," said museum director Shahrum Ynb.

"Headhunting was a socially sanctioned activity. It was practised in present-day Yugoslavia by the Montenegrins as recently as 1913," Shahrum said in an interview.

Headhunting was recorded from as early as 5 B.C. among the Scythians near the Black Sea and as late as 1963 in the northeastern Indian state of Assam.

Shahrum said he also wanted to tell the people of Sarawak, the largest of Malaysia's 13 states where headhunting was once common, that they should be proud of their heritage.

Headhunting was banned in 1841 by James Brooke, the English adventurer who became the first white rajah of Sarawak. But there were reports of the practice as late as World War II.



For centuries, Ibans and men of other Sarawak tribes had to prove their manhood and bravery by hacking off enemies' heads and bringing them home before choosing a bride.

Pointing out skulls with carvings and skulls wrapped in rattan baskets similar to those still found hanging in Sarawak longhouses, Shahrum said the skull has long been a symbol of mystery, energy, power, intellect, fantasy and imagination.

"In many cultures in South East Asia, a head was needed for marriage. It is no different from some men collecting BMWs or Porsches today to show off to would-be brides," he said.

"If I had lived in that period I would have collected heads too, lots of them."

For longot tribespeople in the Philippines, headhunting was a form of therapy, relieving the hunter's negative feelings of envy, grief or hatred.

By cutting off someone's head, the hunter was

cleansed and his burdens lifted.

In some cultures, brains were eaten, jaw bones used as ornaments, and heads stuck on poles to serve as scarecrows in grain fields.

Elsewhere, heads were needed when a new community house was built or to ensure a good harvest, said Shahrum, who spent a year travelling around the world twice to gather the exhibits.

His bizarre show includes rare shrunk heads from the Jivaro tribe of Ecuador in the Amazon Jungle, the head of an Egyptian mummy and a Tibetan water jar made from the top of two skulls.

Several institutions withdrew at the last minute after promising exhibits, Shahrum said. A U.S. university withheld skulls for fear of infuriating American Indian people while a New Zealand museum declined to lend a collection of tattooed heads.

But Shahrum managed to gather some impressive items. There is a preserved

foot and hand from Papua New Guinea. Worn as an amulet, its spirit is supposed to tap the wearer on the chest to warn of danger.

There is the head of Jimmy Ah Sue, a Chinese hanged in Brisbane, Australia in 1880. Hair, skin and teeth are intact but the top of his skull was cut off so that scientists could examine the criminal brain.

Shahrum, who staged an exhibition of Egyptian mummies and burial rites last year, received some complaints from Malaysian Muslims that it was un-Islamic to display remains of the dead.

But Shahrum, who retires in May after having been with the museum since 1962, says: "I believe that what I do is right for the sake of knowledge."

The mingles with visiting schoolchildren, handling and kissing skulls and encouraging them to touch their. "To me a skull is a beautiful creation. Everyone is equal in death," he says.

## AIDS fuels racial tension in Sri Lanka city

By Feizal Samath

Reuter

RATNAPURA, Sri Lanka — The recent discovery that a young Thai prostitute in the Sri Lankan city of Ratnapura had AIDS has added fuel to an already simmering racial problem.

This began coming here in search of work and business in the 1970s and their increasing prosperity has sparked resentment among local residents.

Now that one of the immigrants has been found to carry the killer disease, there is also fear and loathing.

Ratnapura is famous for its gems. Its name means "city of gems" and one in six people here is said to have found a precious stone of some description.

Sleek new cars and powerful motorcycles roar through the streets in an indication of the city's wealth, and new buildings spring up almost overnight.

But it was only after the Thais came to Ratnapura that the town really prospered. They bought gauds, a stone the local merchants had considered worthless and threw away.

The Thais perfected a method of turning the gauds into faux sapphires by heating it almost to melting point. One local merchant said this method made it difficult to tell the real sapphire from the treated gaud, and both now fetched the same price.

"Our people were discarding these (gauds) stones for years, thinking they had no value," said Somapala Malwala, the sales manager of

a local gem company. "But when the Thais came and took the gauds, the Sri Lanka found they had been throwing away a fortune."

Now that the Sri Lanka have mastered the technique of making faux sapphires from gauds, they want the Thais to leave Ratnapura.

"We can do what they can do. We don't need them here," one businessman said. Gem merchants are now putting pressure on the government to keep Thai traders out.

To support their case, the traders have accused the Thais of encouraging vice such as prostitution and drugs, both of which are rife in Ratnapura, of bringing less than the legal minimum of \$10,000 a month when they come on buying trips, and of smuggling the gems out.

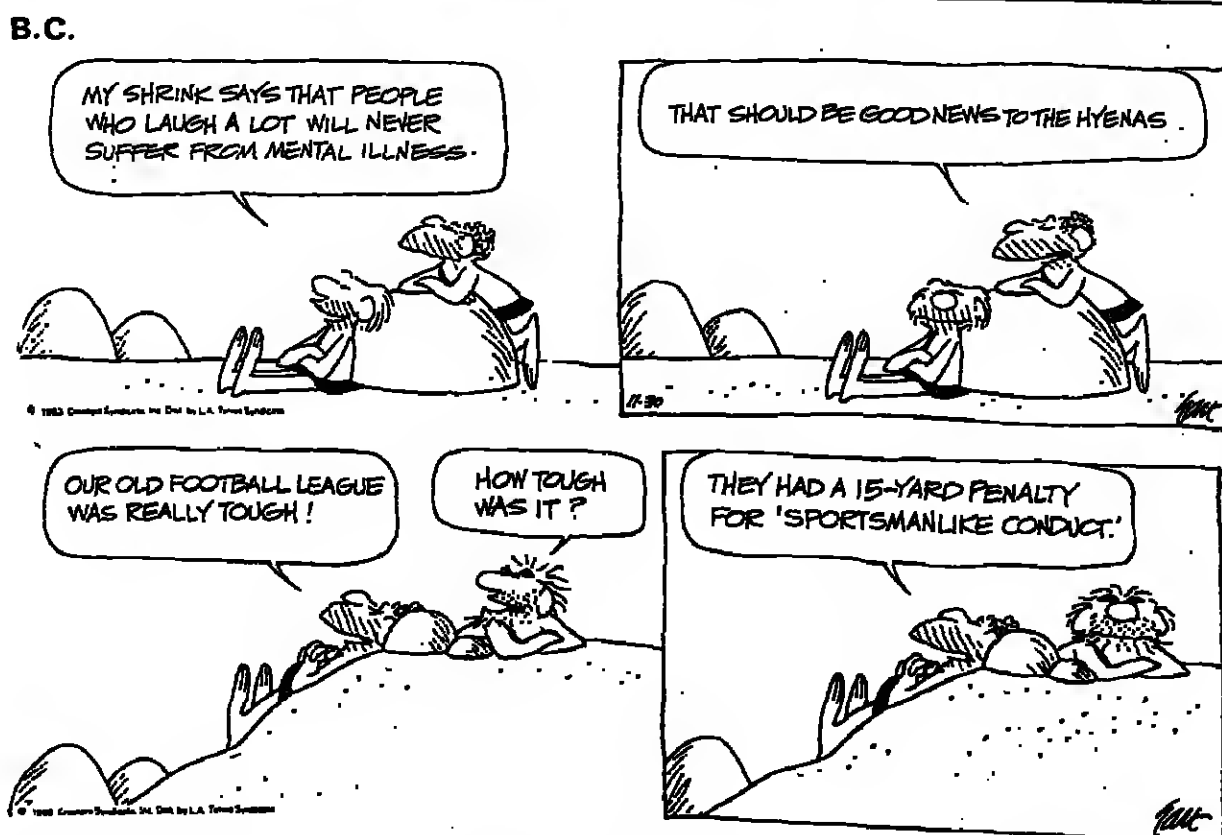
Ratnapura residents, on the other hand, say the Thai presence has helped them get rich. They say the foreigners pay better prices for gauds stones than Sri Lankan businessmen, and as a result want them to keep coming.

To confuse the issue, the Gulf war has hurt business for some Thais.

Businessman Nirut Limsuvarnot comes to Ratnapura every three months, staying a month at a time. He says the war has cut into his profits to such an extent that he does not know when he will be able to come back.

"We can't sell the stones because most of our buyers are from the Gulf," he said.

"Business is bleak and though the market has fallen overseas by 30 per cent, the price here remains the same."



Weekend Crossword not received



## Sobering mornings after for some former Grammy winners

By Hilke Itale  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Could there be a better way for Mariah Carey to top off a multi-platinum debut album than by winning a few Grammy Awards? Actually, yes, by not winning any Grammy Awards.

If there is such a thing as a Grammy jinx, less-established performers are the most likely victims. While veterans such as Quincy Jones and Stevie Wonder, winners of 36 Grammys between them, collect their prizes and move on, for Christopher Cross and Toto the awards were dizzying one-night stands followed by sobering mornings after.

"It's funny, because I have been raised in the industry and you think you can handle this success," recalled Toto keyboardist David Paich, son of film composer Marty Paich, whose band won Record Of The Year and Album Of The Year along with four other Grammys in 1983.

"The high was so big, you'd be like Paul Simon and be able to handle it. It was so big and so unexpected. We thought we could do no wrong — you think you're invincible. It puts things a little out of proportion."

Cross, a native of Texas, had spent years playing in local bands when he released his self-titled debut album in 1980. With backing vocals from Don Henley and Michael McDonald among

others, Cross became the king of easy-listening music, his terse, clenched-jaw falsetto making Ride With The Wind and Sailing instant adult-contemporary standards.

Christopher Cross sold more than million copies and Cross wowed 'em at the Grammy in 1981 by winning Record Of The Year, Album Of The Year, Song Of The Year and, of course, Best New Artist. His picture wasn't on the album cover, but suddenly everyone was familiar with the patchy beard and chubby build of the soft-spoken singer-songwriter.

And that was that — his luck soon changed. After co-writing and singing the Academy Award-winning theme song from the movie Arthur, Cross was so busy touring in support of the first album that he didn't make another record until 1983.

When Another Page came out, his stubble was shaven and his tough was gone. Anticipation was so high the record still managed sales of more than 500,000 but Another Page was a final chapter. Cross took up anto racing and released two more albums, all with little success. He is currently without a recording contract.

"I always feel a little left out when the Grammys come around," Cross, now living in California, said last year. "They've never asked me to come back or to present an

award. These days, I don't even watch them." But he received little sympathy from Michael Greene, president of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, whose members vote for the Grammys. Although Tracy Chapman, Cyndi Lauper, Bruce Hornsby and others voted Best New Artists also sold significantly fewer records on subsequent albums, Greene insists there is no Grammy jinx, only the usual problems for anyone trying to repeat initial success.

"Cross had a good first record, that's a fact," Greene said. "But whether or not his career would have done anything after that, all you have to do is look at the percentage of people who had successful first records and never had another one."

While Cross was going downhill, Toto was catching on. Composed of leading west coast session players, the group formed in the late 1970s and went platinum with its debut album despite being attacked by critics as a slick, studio band.

The next two records had just moderate success, but Toto clicked with its fourth album, Toto IV, which sold more than 2 million copies and produced two hit singles in 1982, the chart-topping Africa and the No. 2 smash Rosanna.

It also caught the attention of Grammy voters. "We were totally shocked

when we were nominated, but I never in my wildest dreams expected to win," Paich recalled. "The odds against us were so ridiculous. There was Lionel Richie. There was Quincy Jones. I figured at the most we would get one award. I figured they would divide them up."

"We were young kids, and it was an unbelievable evening. But then there comes a backlash, in a big way. How do you top that? Your next album has to be better than that, or it's going to be a lot worse."

Life for Toto soon became worse. Singer Bobby Kimball left the band as they were recording their next album and bassist David Hungate also departed.

The remaining members hired a new singer and tried a different approach, getting away from the catchy pop of Toto IV and going for a back-to-the-basics rock 'n' roll sound.

Isolation didn't come out until 1985 and like Another Page, sold well under 1 million copies. Toto has never recovered, sustaining itself with a wide following overseas and with studio work for other performers, including Michael Jackson and Randy Newman.

"It's a humbling experience," Paich said. "You come down to Earth. You have to rethink everything. What happened here? What did we do wrong? Was it the right singer? You try to take it in stride."

## Sinead is staying home, but Grammys will go on ... and on

By Larry McShane  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Someone old, someone new, someone older, someone bolder.

The 33rd annual Grammys return to New York this Wednesday with all this and more: 40-year-old Phil Collins, fresh-faced pop Diva Mariah Carey, 57-year-old Quincy Jones and close-cropped Sinead O'Connor are among the top nominees in a record 79 categories.

The first three could walk away big winners at the nationally televised show; not so O'Connor. The ever-controversial performer has already announced she wants no part of the Radio City Music Hall ceremony.

The angst-ridden Irishwoman says she will not accept, attend or perform at the Grammys because they "acknowledge mostly the commercial side of art. They respect mostly material gain."

Such issues remain as close to O'Connor as her hairline. She has refused to appear on Saturday Night Live with Andrew "Dice" Clay and infuriated Frank Sinatra by not playing The Star Spangled Banner before a New Jersey concert.

If she wins in one of the four categories in which she's nominated, O'Connor would become the first person in Grammy history to refuse an award, making her spiritual



Sinead O'Connor

kin to noted Academy Award refusniks George C. Scott and Marlon Brando.

As predictable as O'Connor's boycott was the conservative nature of the nominees in the major categories: Chart-topping newcomers mingled with veteran music superstars.

Jones, the all-time nomina-

tions leader with 76, received seven nominations for his Back On The Block album. The eclectic collection, which brought together artists from Ray Charles to Barry White to Kool Moe Dee to Sarah Vaughan, is nominated for album of the year.

Jones has won 19 Grammys.

Collins' paean to the homeless Another Day In Paradise, helped the former Genesis drummer gain eight nominations. The late Leonard Bernstein also received five nominations in the classical field.

As for the newcomers, pop Diva Mariah Carey collected five; Wilson Phillips, the second-generation pop trio, received four nominations.

Despite her criticism of the event, O'Connor's own career was helped by her appearance at the 1989 Grammys. National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences head Michael Greene dismissed O'Connor's comments and said nominations are based on peer recognition.

On the bright side, all evidence indicates the nominees for Best New Artist this year can actually sing: Wilson Phillips, Carey, Lisa Stansfield, the Black Crowes and the Kentucky Headhunters.

The 1990 winners, Milli Vanilli, became the first act ever forced to surrender their Grammy after it was revealed the dreadlocked duo never sang a note on their debut album, Girl You Know It's True.

The awards are open to albums released between Oct. 1, 1989, and Sept. 30, 1990. The nationally televised show marks the return of the Grammys to New York for the first time since 1988.

## Dance-shy foreigners learn how to bend to the Cuban beat

By Pascal Fletcher  
Reuter

HAVANA — Want to dance the Guaguanco? Care to brush up on your rumba? How about dancing a tribute to Chango, or playing the bombo?

For all those dance-shy foreigners who claim they were born tone-deaf or have bodies too stiff to bend, Cuba's national folklore group has good news.

"We'll break in those little bones for you," said Armando Jaime, the group's public relations director.

Many foreign tourists who sign on for dance and percussion classes offered by the group have to literally learn to walk again, said dance instructor Ana Luisa Caceres.

First of all, she said, they are taught to shake off their inhibitions and shake out their stiff-limbed way of moving.

Then they are drilled in the Clave Cubana — the sensual, hip-pulsing rhythm that is the key to the Caribbean island's Latin and Afro-Cuban dances.

"Even if they don't learn anything else, they at least go away with a sense of the rhythm," Caceres said.

The state-sponsored folklore group offers two-week classes in January and July in a whole range of Cuban dances from the better-known rumba and cha-cha to the more complex dance repertoire of the Afro-Cuban santeria religion.

Fans of percussion can also learn to play the instruments that accompany these dances, adapting from simple rhythmic sticks and rattles to the throbbing yoruba dance drums that have tongue-twisting onomatopoeic names like Itotele and Okonkolo.

Prices for the two-week courses vary from \$150 to \$50, according to the complexity of the steps and the instructor.

Jaime said the courses are especially popular with Germans and Swiss but also acted pupils from the United States and Canada.

"Cuba has a very wide culture and this has been spread around the world through its music," he said. The boom in Latin "salsa" music, he added, was fuelling international interest in Cuban rhythms.

Jaime also said foreigners were increasingly discovering the mysterious, passion-charged dances of "santeria" — the Cuban equivalent of Haitian voodoo — which blends ancient African deities of the Yoruba culture with conventional Catholic saints.

"Dance is a felt thing. It's about the spirit that moves," said Gloria Hughes from Swansea, Wales, who has been learning the "santeria" dances.

Pupils are taught dances in honour of the principal "santeria" deities — Elegua, Ogun, Yemaya, Ochun, Oya and Chango.

American Ivor Miller, a student at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, said his favourite dance was the one to Chango, the blacksmith god of war and thunder.

"It's a dance where Chango grabs thunder from the sky and puts it into his groin," he said.

Miller, 30, was in Cuba to study the island's culture with a grant from Yale. He said learning the dances and music gave him a better understanding of the subject.

Hughes said she also liked singing the haunting Yoruba incantations that accompany the "santeria" dances.

"At my home in London, I sing them all the time," she said. "I don't know what the neighbours think."

Both Miller and Hughes had danced before professionally but many of the pupils are complete novices.

Caceres recalled one Swiss woman who, when she started, despaired of ever being able to learn the dance movements. When she finished, even Cubans in the audience who watched the graduation show were impressed.

## Small German town to get back stolen property

THE CATHEDRAL treasures of Quedlinburg, southwest of Magdeburg in the former East Germany, are a tourist attraction. They are kept in illuminated showcases. Christian believers react with respect, admiration and astonishment: others marvel at the wonderful workmanship, centuries old; the copy of the Gospel belonging to the Abbess Adelheid (999-1044), her cross, reliquaries, a marble vase (the Kana flagon), Syrian vase and other valuable items from the second to the 13th centuries.

During the war, the many of the treasures, including illuminated manuscripts, were hidden. When the American occupying forces moved in after the war, some were discovered. They were later taken to America, where they remained until their whereabouts were revealed last year. Now, it is reported that the eight reliquaries and liturgical items are to be brought back to Germany.

In the cathedral, there are treasures dating from the reign of Otto the Great (912-973), Holy Roman Emperor, son of Henry the Fowler, who stopped the westward advance of the Magyars and Wends, and made Bohemia, Denmark and Poland his tributaries, establishing a great empire throughout central Europe.

The reliquary of Heinrich I (about 876-936) is also very beautiful and very valuable.

But which is more beautiful? The reliquary of Otto the Great or the one which belonged to Heinrich? Experts have yet to decide. But there is no dispute that it is the cathedral treasure from the time of Otto the Great.

The home for these treasures is the romantic church of St. Servatius on the Burgberg, wholly mediaeval. Its former splendour symbolised to Christians the New Jerusalem. They believed that when it could be so beautiful here on earth, how much more beautiful it would be with God.

Guides take tourists to visit the crypt where King Heinrich I and his wife Mathilde, who is honoured as a saint, are buried, giving them an insight into early and later German history. In the archives of the church it is possible to read how the Nazis tried to get their hands on this jewel and original symbol of power of the German emperor.

Quedlinburg was unrecognisable when the Nazis staged celebrations for Heinrich I's 1000th anniversary in 1936. But the end result was confiscation. In 1938 an order arrived from Berlin that the keys to the church were to be handed over. The personal staff of the Reichsführer SS threatened imprisonment if the order was not obeyed.

Everything of value, seating pulpit and bronze chandelier, was taken out and the church was in part rebuilt. The eagle and swastikas

appeared on the walls. The church became a holy place for the SS. Most of the treasure originated from Germany. One is tempted to make a comparison with the Aachen Cathedral treasure — a highly interesting subject for art experts and historians.

In Aachen, the centre of the Carolingian era, there was Charlemagne's throne and his coffin. Quedlinburg was an important centre in the royal Palatine during the reign of Otto and the Salic emperors. Church and treasure suffered in the course of time. The coeveat was dissolved in 1802, and handed over to the Kingdom of Westphalia. King Jerome, Napoleon's brother, had the cathedral treasure brought to Kassel and auctioned off the contents of the monastery castle.

Jerome sold the St. Wiperti Church, which was later the parish church of the Cathedral Chapter of St. Servatius, to a lord of a manor, and made over the ownership of the collegiate church of St. Servatius to the Wiperti parish.

The Wiperti church was used as a barn but the famous crypt remained undisturbed, until the church was turned into a Catholic parish church in 1959. After the end of the Napoleonic era the treasure was taken to Halberstadt, but in 1815/1816 Superintendent, W.J. Schmidt fought for the return of the Quedlinburg treasure.



Reliquary box of Heinrich I



Quedlinburg and the cathedral

By a decree dated 1820 the Prussian King confirmed the ownership of the treasure to the cathedral chapter of St. Servatius, and the superintendent was appointed to look after it. In 1854 an agreement was drawn up making over the church of St. Servatius to the Prussian King, Friedrich Wilhelm IV. He wanted to make it again into a home for gentlemen run by nuns, but this did not involve a refoundation. Paragraph 5 of the contract confirmed St. Servatius parish's usufruct or life-rent. No subsequent government withdrew this.

But the Nazis annulled the contract in 1938. The church was reconfirmed in its rights in 1945 by the Allies. The parish council was given assurances in writing by the former East German Ministry for the Arts that the government would make no claim in the cathedral treasure. Joe T. Meador, a reserved, eccentric bachelor, who ran a hardware shop in the small town of Whitewright, Texas, with his brother, had two hobbies: he grew marvellous orchids and he had a passionate interest in art.

He was a former army officer and had studied art in Biarritz. He sometimes showed to his employees other treasures apart from his

orchids: old books inlaid with golden letters, richly decorated caskets and other unusual objects.

For 45 years it was a secret where the mysterious treasures in the possession of the reserved Texan really came from. Only ten years after Meador's death, last summer, was the veil lifted. In June the New York Times reported that antique dealers were handling the cathedral treasures from Quedlinburg which had disappeared at the end of the Second World War.

It was also reported that former army officer Joe Meador, whose unit had taken Quedlinburg just before the end of the war, had possibly carried out the largest art theft of the century. The head of the collegiate church in Quedlinburg, formerly in the GDR and now in the German state of Saxony-Anhalt, began a legal battle to retrieve the treasures, a battle which was ultimately successful.

The last chapter in this artworks crime story was written in London. Joe Meador's heirs, Jack and his sister Janet Meador Cook, have made an out-of-court agreement against a financial settlement to forgo all claims on the treasure. The State's Cultural Foundation, which was interested in retrieving these treasures from the Mid-

dle Ages, has not said how much has been paid to the heirs.

The brother and sister should have received in all \$2.75 million, for last year the Cultural Foundation acquired through a middleman one of the most valuable pieces of the treasures, the so-called Samuel Gospel, a richly decorated manuscript from the 10th century, without knowing where it had come from.

The price negotiated was \$3 million. Then doubts grew about the rightful ownership of the treasure, and art dealer Heribert Tenschert, who had received the manuscript from the lawyer acting for the brother and sister, declined to pay over part of the sum, but paid it back to the Cultural Foundation.

A second Quedlinburg manuscript, a copy of the Gospel dating from 1513, was handed to the Foundation in Switzerland in October. No money changed hands. The rest of the treasure, which is stored in the Dallas art gallery, and which will be exhibited there for two weeks, will be returned to Germany, by agreement, within 60 days.

But there is an unpleasant consequence threatening the Joe Meador's heirs. The US inland revenue begun investigations for tax evasion and the FBI is investigating it as a case of being in possession of stolen goods.

To spare the brother and sister legal proceedings, the Federal Interior Ministry and the Cultural Foundation have stated in the settlement made in London that the German authorities are not interested in any legal sequel.

The Quedlinburg cathedral priest, Friedemann Gossau, estimates that the legal costs will be about DM500,000, which will be shared by the Interior Ministry and the States' Cultural Foundation.

The treasures will be brought to Berlin's Arts and Crafts Museum and restored there. Those items remaining in Quedlinburg will also be brought to Berlin so that the treasure chamber in the church of St. Servatius can be airconditioned and made burglar-proof — The German Features.



## Study could lead to better diagnosis of inherited retardation disorder

By Malcolm Ritter  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — American and French scientists have found the strongest evidence yet to explain what causes the most common inherited form of mental retardation with a study that also may lead to a better diagnostic test.

Scientists have not identified the genetic defect that causes the syndrome. But in the latest issue of the British journal *Nature*, French scientists say they found evidence that the defect causes the syndrome by keeping other genes improperly shut off.

"I think this represents a very important advance" toward understanding the cause of the condition, said Dr. W. Ted Brown of North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York.

The research supports the idea that fragile-X syndrome occurs when a person inherits an inactivated gene or genes that should have been turned back on.

The condition, which experts said often goes undiagnosed, accounts for an estimated 5 per cent to 10 per cent of the cases of mental retardation in the United States. It appears in about one in every 1,250 male Americans.

It generally produces moderate to severe retardation in males, who also tend to be hyperactive. Some females who carry the defective gene for the disease also show mental impairment.

The disease concentrates on men because it stems from a defect in the X chromosome, one of the tiny string-like structures that carry genes. Men have only one X chromosome, but women have a second one that can act as a backup.

There is no highly effective treatment for the syndrome, but therapy early in life can help patients reach their potential, Brown said.

In the study, Jean-Louis Mandel of Strasbourg University, with colleagues there had at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, studied a portion of the X chromosome close to where the genetic defect is known to lie.

Chromosome from 21 fragile-X patients had an abnormal pattern of methylation, which is chemical alteration that generally shuts genes off.

No such pattern appeared in chromosomes from 22 men without the syndrome, nor four additional men who had the genetic defect but not the

syndrome. Their findings fit a hypothesis proposed by Charles Laird of the University of Washington in Seattle, who blames abnormal gene inactivation for the syndrome. That could explain a puzzling feature of the disease: The genetic defect fails to cause any symptoms in at least 20 per cent of men who inherit it, yet it can go to produce retardation in their grandchildren, Laird said.

He noted that women's bodies inactivate one of the two X chromosomes in each cell. An inactivated chromosome is normally turned on again before it is passed to offspring.

But perhaps the fragile-X defect keeps some genes from turning back on again, through a process called genomic imprinting, Laird proposed. This imprinting is thought to be maintained by the methylation.

Half of a woman's X chromosome escape inactivation, which means the fragile-X defect would not get a chance to harm them. So if such a chromosome goes into an egg that becomes a male, that male can inherit the defect but escape the syndrome.

But once that male passes the chromosome to his daughter, it has another chance to go through the inactivation-activation cycle before being passed to her offspring.

If it is inactivated this time, the defect will prevent some genes from being turned back on again. So if the daughter's son inherits this chromosome, he will get the syndrome.

Laird called the new paper the strongest evidence yet found for his theory. Another lab has confirmed the finding, he said.

The new work gives clues to finding what gene or genes are inactivated, he said.

The research could also lead to a less expensive and more accurate test for predicting fragile-X retardation in fetuses or newborns, or diagnosing the syndrome in retarded children, experts said. The current method involves looking for a fragile site on X chromosomes that are cultured in the laboratory under special conditions.

Brown said such a test might allow routine prenatal testing when doctors check other chromosome defects. Laird said routine testing of newborns would alert parents to the condition and allow for early intervention.

## Women less likely to survive heart attacks

By Rod Richardson  
The Associated Press

DALLAS — A woman entering a hospital with a heart attack is 43.8 per cent more likely to die before leaving than a man admitted with the same condition, a study released Monday says.

"The idea is that we found a substantial difference in death rates for women in hospitals as compared to men," said Dr. Philip Greenland of the University of Rochester School of Medicine.

Greenland spent last year analysing data compiled by researchers who studied more than 5,800 heart attack patients hospitalised between 1981 and 1983.

The study involved 4,315 men and 1,524 women of various nationalities who had suffered heart attacks, and found that 23 per cent of the women and 16 per cent of the men died during their initial hospital stay.

Greenland said that because of the broad range of people studied, the conclusions are significant anywhere.

Heart attack tends to strike females when they are older and have more health problems, said Greenland, whose study appears in the February issue of the Dallas-based American Heart Association's journal *Circulation*.

After researchers made adjustments for the ages of men and women studied, they found no significant differences in death rates when comparing heart rhythm and whether the patients had previous heart attacks.

But women with diabetes tended to have a greater change of dying than men who also had diabetes, Greenland said.

"We understand that diabetes can lead to changes in the heart muscles, but what's very peculiar is why this can lead to such difference in women as opposed to men," he said.

The study is more significant than previous efforts, which produced contradictory conclusions because a larger statistical sampling was used, Greenland said.

Critics have said government-funded research typically focuses too heavily on middle-aged white men, overlooking knowledge about women's health.

"Because all of the studies have been designed to look at slightly different things, it's not surprising to me that most of them reach different conclusions," said Dr. Nicholas Fiebach of Yale University School of Medicine.

Fiebach, whose study published last year concluded that women survive as well as men after heart attacks, said

the debate in the medical community is healthy.

"To my mind, the thing that all of us will have to look at is, are the people in the study really representative of all the people out there," he said in a telephone interview.

The women in Greenland's study also had a higher incidence of heart failure than the men.

"We know that heart failure at the time of heart attack is usually a consequence of cumulative heart damage," Greenland said.

## Study: Ibuprofen doubles risk of ulcers

By A.J. Hostettler  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The widely used pain reliever ibuprofen doubles the risk of ulcers, according to Vanderbilt University researchers, and some experts say people taking it may want to consider lower doses or alternatives.

But for those suffering chronic pain and inflamma-

tion, ibuprofen may be the best choice, as it has the lowest ulcer risk in its class of analgesics, researchers said.

The Vanderbilt study confirms the increased risk of ulcers in people who use prescription pain relievers, including ibuprofen, that belong to a group called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or NSAIDs.

It said the overall risk in-

creased with higher doses and was greatest in the first month of use.

Ibuprofen, available without a prescription in the United States since 1985, is sold under such brand names as Advil, Medipren, Motrin and Nuprin. It has captured about 20 per cent of the \$2.5 billion U.S. non-prescription pain-reliever market.

The study, published in the

*Annals of Internal Medicine*, involved 1,415 Tennessee Medicaid enrollees hospitalised for ulcers from 1984 to 1986 and 7,063 control patients.

At recommended dosages for treating rheumatoid arthritis, NSAIDs quadrupled the risk for ulcers. But of the dozen drugs studied, ibuprofen showed the lowest risk, at 2.3 times, while Mec-

lofenamate increased the risk 8.7 times.

Ibuprofen is the only one of that group available in over-the-counter strength. Aspirin is also an NSAID but was not included in the study because it is not a prescription drug.

Ibuprofen was included because, at the beginning of the study, it was still a prescrip-

tion drug and was available free under the government Medicaid programme. Ibuprofen is now available without a prescription in the United States.

Aspirin is at least as risky as ibuprofen, said the study's lead author, Dr. Marie Griffin, while another pain reliever acetaminophen, is not associated with ulcers.

## Antibody treatment improves outlook in blood poisoning

BOSTON (AP) — A tailor-made antibody can significantly reduce the risk of death from severe blood poisoning and shock caused by bacterial infection, a condition that kills at least 30,000 Americans annually, according to a study.

The research found that while the experimental treat-

ment saves lives in this medical emergency, it is far from foolproof. Even with the therapy, nearly one-third of the patients died.

The new approach is intended to control a form of blood poisoning called gram-negative bacteremia. The disease occurs when ordinarily harmless bacteria invade the bloodstream, often when peo-

ple are already weak from other health problems, and causes life-threatening complications, including low blood pressure, fever and kidney failure.

The disease results from the body's reaction to a bacterial poison called endotoxin. In the latest approach, researchers manufactured large

amounts of the antibody or natural proteins that the body makes to attack the poison.

Doctors tested the manufactured antibody — known as HA-1A or Centoxin — on 543 people at 24 hospitals who were suspected of having gram-negative bacteremia. The study was directed by Dr. Elizabeth J. Ziegler of the University of California San

Diego and sponsored by Centocor Inc. of Malvern, Pennsylvania, which makes the antibody.

The patients were randomly assigned to receive the antibody or a placebo, and 200 of them eventually turned out to actually have had gram-negative bacteremia.

According to results published in the *New England*

*Journal of Medicine*, 30 per cent of those getting the antibody died, compared with 19 per cent of those who got the placebo.

"Our results indicate that HA-1A is safe and that it substantially reduces mortality in patients with sepsis (infection) and gram-negative bacteremia," the researchers wrote.

## Mock neighbourhood used for cancer research

By Michelle Locke  
The Associated Press

LENOX, Massachusetts — It's not your average neighbourhood.

Instead of houses, there are squat gray panels fed by power lines that can be turned off and on at will.

An engineer's vision of a suburban community, this mechanical hamlet is being used to study whether the electricity that makes much of modern life possible is linked to cancer.

"If we have a problem here, we need to know about it and decide what can be done about it and what options do we have available," said Gary Johnson, director

of the Electric Power Research Institute's Magnetic Field Research Facility.

Built along a country lane in the Berkshires, the facility simulates a small segment of a residential neighbourhood. Four-foot-high (1.2-metre) panels with instruments represent houses with typical wiring.

A 1,200-foot-long (363-metre) power distribution line runs overhead, as well as high-voltage lines. Another electrical system runs beneath the ground. There is also an independent water pipe system.

Towering above the development is one real house, a wooden shell that doubles as an office and test site for measuring the electromagne-

tic fields of household appliances and electrical wiring.

Although sources of electromagnetic fields are everywhere, from water pipes to fluorescent lights to toasters, the Lenox study is designed to measure and identify the sources of magnetic fields surrounding the average person.

Tools and measurement procedures developed here can then be used in the institute's environmental studies that will try to answer the question of whether there is a health link.

According to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report, made public last summer, considerable evidence from more than a dozen scientific studies shows

that high exposure to electromagnetic fields from electric power lines are "a possible, but not proven, cause of cancer in humans."

The report says more studies are needed to link electromagnetic fields and cancer. Some members of the utility industry have sharply criticised the report.

The Electric Power Research Institute is a non-profit research institution financed by utilities. But Johnson said he doubts industry ties have slowed down research, noting that the institute accounts for much of the present research.

And that research is needed, experts agree. "There's fairly significant proof that the fields are in some way associated with

biological effects. Exactly what exposure causes how much disease we have no idea," said Martin Halper, director of the analysis and support division of the EPA in Washington. "We really don't know whether what we're talking about has a significant public health impact."

If a health hazard ever is established, it would pose a dilemma because magnetic fields are hard to shield, Johnson said.

"I like my electricity and I'd hate to have to face the thought of major modification," he said. "There are just numerous sources of magnetic fields and to look at sort of a comprehensive approach to reducing all

magnetic field exposure you're talking about a tremendous amount of investment and effort."

Still, Halper said some measures might help. For instance, in the last two years, electric blanket wiring has been redesigned to avoid the problem, he said.

Studies and tools and methods developed in Lenox will be used in a nationwide residential programme in 1,000 homes, Johnson said.

"There's a large amount of public concern out there for it," he said. "It's better to at least address the issue and be looking at it so that you have some options and answers available should it turn out something needs to be done."

## Uranium mine horrors begin to emerge — 'gross disregard for human safety'

The writer of this article, Professor Werner Schüttmann, is a specialist in internal medicine and labour hygiene.

By A.J. Hostettler  
PHILADELPHIA —

THE SOVIET-GERMAN Wismut AG first raised the curtain on one of the best-kept state secrets in the former GDR in February 1990. The Wismut AG began mining uranium ore in 1946 as a strictly Soviet enterprise in the Erzgebirge region of occupied Saxony.

Within a few years the south of what was then the GDR was the largest uranium ore-mining region in Europe. The company claims to have employed well over 100,000 people in the early 1950s.

It has now, under growing public pressure, divulged a few facts about its decades of hush-hush activity, including initial disclosures about its equally hush-hush health service and its chief problem: radiation-induced lung cancer among miners.

This complaint which has gone down in mining history as the Schneeberg lung disease, is now known to have affected thousands of ex-miners, and new cases are still

reported.

Figures were released at a Wismut AG press conference after 40 years of official silence about statistics compiled in this connection.

One was that roughly 160 new lung cancer cases a year are still reported among the men and, initially, women who worked down the GDR's uranium ore mines.

Given the time-lag that is known to apply to the Schneeberg lung disease there must have been at least 5,000 to 6,000 cases in all, most of them lethal.

The company has yet to divulge the number of known fatalities. It has merely admitted that at the end of 1989 lung cancer had been recognised as an industrial disease in 5,132 cases.

The number of cases that went unreported and for which no pension or indemnity claims were submitted will have been much higher.

Many ex-miners moved elsewhere and their later complaints were not included in the relevant statistics. So the

true number of lung cancer cases could well be several thousand more.

They were all the victims of a gross disregard for all conventional health and safety and radiation protection measures in the first 15 to 20 years of operations down the Wismut mines.

Miners were sent down the mine heedless of the radiation. The Wismut AG has repeatedly sought to justify its negligence by claiming that the cause and course of radiation-induced lung cancer were not known for sure until the 1950s.

The aim was to create the impression that miners were exposed to radiation by a management who were unaware of the risk. Experts have challenged this assertion.

Specialist literature can readily be quoted to show that a connection was known to exist between the exposure of Erzgebirge miners to radiation and their later lung cancer by the end of the World War II.

Medical checks had established a clear connection that was widely accepted. The health and safety executive of

the Saxony ore mining industry had drawn up radiation exposure ceilings.

Given the wide-ranging debate the Wismut AG has now abandoned its initial alibi claim and writes that:

"It can be assumed that in spring 1946 the experts were aware of not only the geological conditions in the mining areas but also the possible health hazard to miners as outlined in specialist literature."

So the Wismut AG remains morally to blame for having allowed men and, initially, women work down the uranium ore mines in appalling conditions until the late 1950s.

Above all, its failure to take suitable measures to reduce the radiation risk caused by the known high radon count down Saxon mines led to the early radiation-induced lung cancer death of thousands of miners.

The significance of these figures can be seen from the fact that there were thousands more of them than the known number of radiation-induced cancer cases among the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

People at the time often had no choice but to work down the mines. They were either forced to do so or corrupted and encouraged to do so by a wide range of privileges.

They were supplied with more and better food and consumer goods, which at a time when hunger and deprivation were widespread made people cast caution to the winds even though they were well aware of the radiation risk.

Doctors who worked in the area in those days (I was one of them) and warned patients about the health hazard miners faced will well remember how their warnings were brushed aside.

There were reasons why the Soviet authorities went ahead so ruthlessly. German uranium ore was essential if they were to develop a Soviet atomic bomb as soon as possible.

The Soviet Union is unlikely to have had large stocks of uranium at the war's end and there can be no doubt that the first Soviet nuclear device, exploded on Aug. 29, 1949, contained uranium mined in

Soviet-occupied Saxony.

Confirmation of this assumption is available from the United States, where the Soviet Union was not generally expected to develop an atomic bomb until 1956 or 1960.

Only a handful of scientists, generally classified as pessimists, felt an earlier date was possible. So the shock was all the greater when it was learnt in the United States that Soviet Union had exploded a nuclear device in August 1949.

This shock triggered political activities in the United States that included a witch hunt against Soviet spies, real or imaginary.

The Oppenheimer hearing dealt mainly with the Soviet atomic bomb. A few years ago a previously unheeded detail of the 1954 proceedings came to light.

General Leslie Groves, former military head of the Manhattan project that designed and built the first American atomic bomb, was asked what part he felt espionage had played in the Soviet Union developing a bomb of its own

so soon and so unexpectedly.

Espionage, he said, had in his view been a minor consideration. His misjudgment, and that of other experts, of the rate at which the Soviet Union might follow in America's footsteps had been due to a failure to appreciate what substantial uranium deposits the Russians had come across.

It is one of history's ironies that the Americans first occupied much of this territory, not handing over western Saxony and Thuringia to the Russians until June 1945.

The Americans were clearly either entirely in the dark or inadequately informed about the uranium ore deposits in this part of Germany even though scientific literature had mentioned them since the turn of the century.

Not so the Russians. They were well informed from the outset. In July and August 1945 the Soviet military administration set up scientific and technological offices at the mining academy in Freiberg, Saxony.

They thus enlisted the academic and scientific support of the world's oldest mining college in setting up their

uranium mining facilities.

The academy had maintained close ties with Russia for centuries. Between 1765, when it was founded, and 1937 roughly 30 per cent of its foreign students (800 out of 2,880) were Russians.

Between 1917 and 1937 fifty-four students from the Soviet Union studied in Freiberg. That may help to explain why the Russians, unlike the Americans, were so well informed in 1945 about the rich uranium ore deposits in the Erzgebirge.

Saxony's uranium deposits will probably have hastened the cold war. With justified hopes of substantial shipments of Saxony uranium to help it build its own atomic bomb before long, the Soviet Union will have been encouraged to reject, at the U.N. in 1947, the American Baruch plan for international inspection of nuclear weapons.

In its place the Soviet Union went in for a gigantic nuclear arms race that experts now feel was one of the reasons for the present decline of the Soviet empire. — Der Tagesspiegel.



## Soviets cool

(Continued from page 1)

invasion of Kuwait. It has cut off arms shipments and supported U.N. moves to oust Iraq from the emirate.

Komsomolskaya Pravda quoted sources close to the Kremlin as saying the peace plan called for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait after which a ceasefire would be considered.

After the legal government of Kuwait was restored, Moscow would propose talks on contentious questions between Kuwait and Iraq and on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The newspaper said allied forces would withdraw gradually from the Gulf and be replaced by a multinational Arab or United Nations peace-keeping body. Sanctions on Iraq would be lifted.

Previous reports said the plan included Iraq's unconditional withdrawal in exchange for an allied force to keep Iraq intact, oppose sanctions, resist "punishment" of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and back discussions on all further issues such as the Palestinian question.

Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner said that President George Bush's rejection of the Soviet proposal came as no surprise to Israel's government.

"We are not surprised that President Bush described these proposals as insufficient," said Mr. Pazner. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman, in an interview with French television.

"The U.S. had asked for Iraq's complete, unconditional and immediate withdrawal (from Kuwait). We have not read the Soviet proposals and we have not been able to study them but from what we gather, this was something a little bit more complicated," he said.

Britain gave Moscow a detailed response to its Gulf peace plan Wednesday, saying it did not meet U.N. demands and military operations would continue.

A senior government official said Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd called Soviet Ambassador Leonid Zaydan to the Foreign Office to give him Britain's reaction.

Britain's overall response was that the plan did not meet the full requirements of Security Council resolutions, the official said.

He would not go into details, but said: "We made a detailed disposition on where the Soviet plan is unacceptable."

But the official dismissed media reports that Britain and the United States had rejected the plan. "It is not for us to reject or accept — that is for the Iraqis," he said.

If Baghdad accepted a proposal which included the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait "we will consider that when it comes," he said.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said that Iraq must make its choice between continuing the Gulf war and leaving Kuwait known in the next few hours.

Governance spokesman Louis de Funès said Mr. Dumas told the French cabinet that Iraq must "choose clearly and look out for itself" between withdrawal from Kuwait and continuation of the war.

Iraq "ought to make its intentions known in the next few hours," Mr. Dumas said.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal said Soviet efforts to end the Gulf war were aimed at keeping Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in power.

The Soviets are showing an effort to save Saddam," Mr. Ozal told villagers Tuesday in southeastern Turkey, newspapers reported Wednesday.

Mr. Ozal also told the state television during an impromptu interview Tuesday evening that Turkey has not been informed about the Soviet peace proposal.

But Mr. Ozal said it was his understanding that the Soviet Union wanted the war to come to an end quickly because it did not want the United States and allied forces to win a military victory and obtain great influence in the region.

The Foreign Ministry Wednesday declined to make any comment about Mr. Ozal's remarks. No separate official announcements were made about the Soviet peace proposal.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad hopes Iraq will heed Iranian advice aimed at ending the Gulf war, his spokesman said Wednesday.

## Children assess their fear of war, their craving for peace and their concern for Iraq

### Voices from the shadows can be enlightening

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Daddy, daddy ask me what my name is?" a three-year-old Jordanian asked his father. When the father responded with the required question, he (the boy) replied, "Scud."

These voices from behind the shadows are calling out, perhaps louder than the demonstrations staged worldwide, yet they are barely heard. "Sometimes I get frightened and I ask my parents lots of questions, then my fear goes away," Omar Sati, 13, said. "At school even though the teacher is not allowed to talk to us about the war, we have air raid practices. It is scary and I feel that war might really happen here."

Throughout the Kingdom children gathering among friends talk about the Gulf war, telling each other the latest news. But deep down they are afraid of what might happen and what is happening in Iraq. "You'll be surprised how perceptive children are," said Leila, a mother of six. "When the eight o'clock news begins, my children run into

the sitting room and listen, sometimes telling the adults to be quiet." There no longer seems to be a gap between adults and children. Regardless of the age, everybody joins to debate on the Gulf war, Leila added.

But as she let out a sigh, Leila worried about what this is doing to the new generation. "I feel my children are growing up to absolutely hate foreigners. Mentally, this is not good," Leila feels that by talking to her children she can point out that it is the governments they should be against not the people, at the same time "by talking openly their fear subsides," she said.

Other parents however decline to utter a word on the war in front of their children because they think that if the children are unaware, they will not feel fear. Other mothers do not agree. "Children are more sensitive than adults, they know a lot more than we think they do. If children think they are not being told something, they will feel threatened."

One 12-year-old boy who refused to give his name said, "my parents do not talk to me

about the war. I want to know the answers to my questions," he added, "I am angry at Bush. He is killing innocent people and children in Iraq. He is like Hitler. It is our generation who will make the world and it is the adults whom we will learn from. Doesn't he (Bush) care that he is making vicious monsters out of us?"

"I don't think the Gulf war should have happened. Many people are dying," said George Abu Jandum, 13. "It is a mess that has to be solved through peace; having the Arab states get together, believing in one another and having a peace conference," he added. Like many his age, George is constantly thinking about what will happen.

"I hope Saddam wins," said Ali Saket, 12. "But I don't believe the war is about liberating Kuwait because they (the allies) are destroying Iraq."

But of Amman, children on the streets play the "Iraqis and the Americans." For hours they shift from air battles to ground fighting pretending to kill one another. It is always the Iraqis who win with minor casualties. "I know Iraq is going to win because Saddam

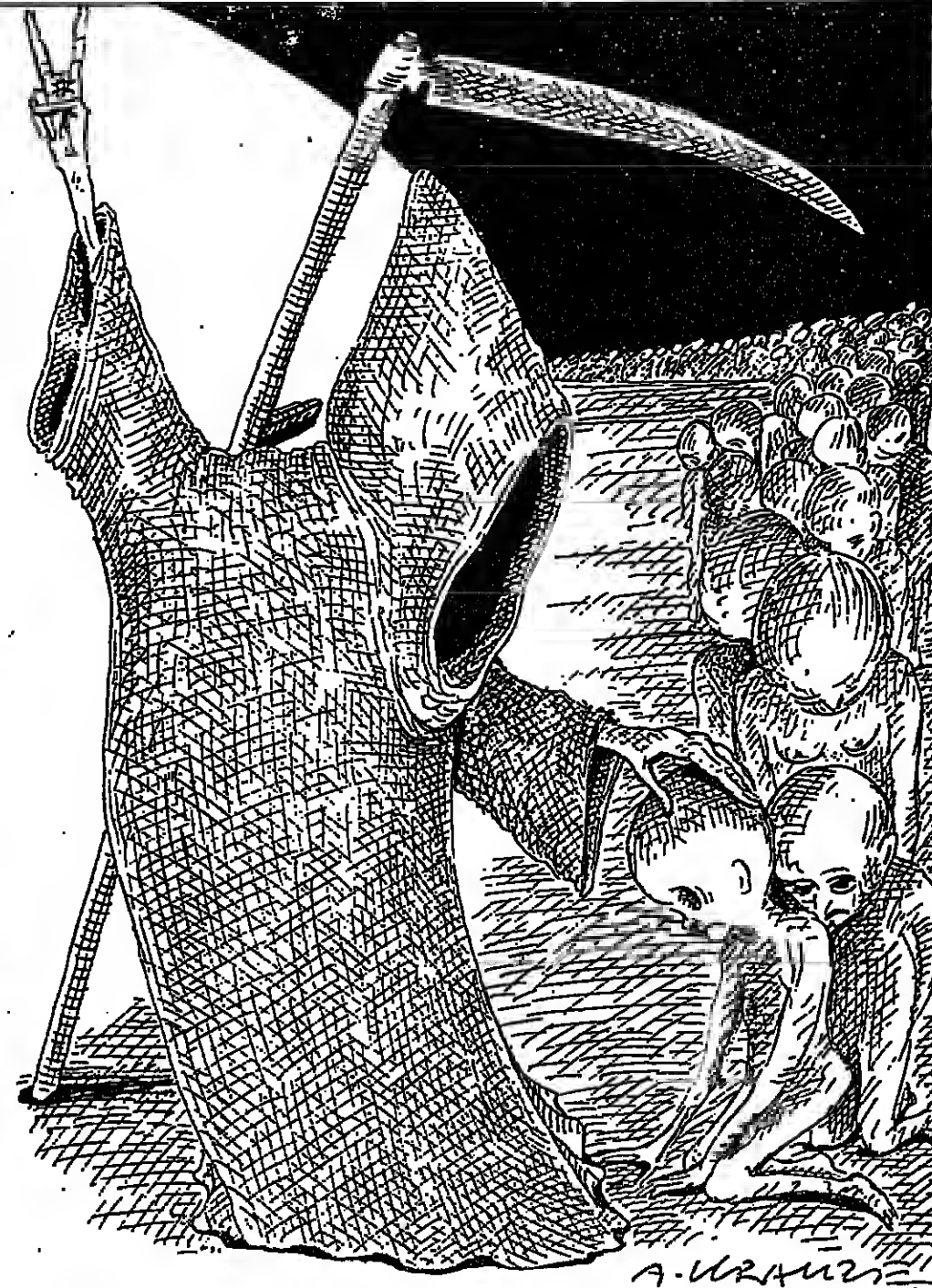
is right," eight-year-old Ahmad said.

"Imagine if Texas had oil problems like the one Iraq had with Kuwait? What if the Arab countries just walked into Texas? How can the Americans just walk into our lands, it's none of their business," said a 12-year-old who wanted to call himself Al Hussein.

Despite the state of euphoria and a deep belief that Saddam will raise dignity, children's biggest fear is the probability that the war might end up with the use of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. "I hear my parents talk about it. I know it is dangerous so I am afraid of what will happen," Ahmad said.

A little girl selling chewing gum in the street said: "my brothers are always talking about how dangerous the chemicals are. Sometimes I can't sleep because I think about it so much. But I am concerned more about the Iraqis at this moment."

It remains to be seen how this generation will grow up. One woman, Wafa, said "they will definitely be a generation with much more perception, awareness and with a strong sense of nationalism."



## Driven by faith and guided by national duty, truckers drive through death corridor

### Braving bombs to make a point

By Debbie Lovatt

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Come and look! See this gift from America and her allies to the people of Iraq!"

On display outside Dr. Samih Abu Zaydan's house in Amman, are the castings of two CBU-58/13 missiles picked up by truck drivers delivering donated baby food, baby milk, water and medicines to those in need in Baghdad.

Once in the Iraqi capital the supplies will be delivered directly to people in need, especially mothers with young children, or will be distributed via the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies and the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Abu Zaydan, wearing traditional Islamic dress and a kuffiyeh without head band (the band is seen to represent a crown and God is the only One worthy of wearing a crown) acts as coordinator and spiritual counsellor to truck drivers making the hazardous journey

to and from Baghdad which they call their Jihad.

In Quweishah trucks are loaded and unloaded and drivers from all over Jordan pass through the town. When Jihad (holy war) was declared word spread quickly that drivers could use their trucks to deliver supplies to Iraq and bring people out of the war zone on the return journey. Many drivers wish to go on the mission but cannot as this would leave their families with no means of support. Truck drivers are one sector of Jordan's society to have fared particularly badly since the eruption of the Gulf crisis on Aug. 2. Seventy per cent of the trucks' work was ferrying goods between Jordan and Iraq. Since the United Nations imposed economic sanctions on Iraq unemployment among drivers has risen sharply.

On the piece of the camouflage-green missile outside Dr. Abu Zaydan's modest house overlooking Amman was written the message: "We came, we saw, we conquered" and

signed by "Stuart." Although no one knows who Stuart is, the message back to him was an angry reminder that the American-led coalition against Iraq has no business in the region except greed: "You are only here for oil, for money. But this is not your land. Kuwait is not a state of America, so why did you come here?" said an irate Hamud Maflih. The piece of missile was picked up in a civilian area of the Iraqi capital where Maflih and the other drivers were staying.

"The police found the missile and gave it to the drivers to show to the people here," he said. The gruesome souvenir will be displayed in Quweishah for a time and then auctioned off. The proceeds will go to the people of Iraq.

Maflih, 33, married with five children, left in a convoy of four trucks for Iraq Sunday. "Put your trust in God," Dr. Abu Zaydan told Maflih as he left amid many handshakes and good wishes from friends. Just as Maflih was leaving, a

seven-year-old boy ran up to the group standing in Dr. Abu Zaydan's forecourt and handed over a big bag of assorted flavours of potato chips. "This is for Iraqi children like me," he said blushing before shyly running away.

Despite the obvious dangers of using a road made unsafe due to craters from bombs and the continuous threat of further air attacks, Maflih says he is prepared to risk his life as "this is Jihad. It is the least we can do."

Maflih hopes that through his Jihad Islam will be better understood and have a wider reach.

Jihad is a duty on every Muslim to react against what he believes to be a threat to fellow Muslims. The nature of Jihad varies according to necessity and need not be violent.

If a Muslim dies whilst carrying out one of the Muslim duties — witness, alms-giving, praying, fasting, pilgrimage or Jihad — he has died a martyr's death and will go straight to jannah (heaven). Dr. Abu

Zaydan described martyrdom and the immediate passage to jannah thereafter as "God's gift to His faithful who are working in His way for truth."

Basel Ghanem, who, like Maflih, is married with five children, has successfully made two trips to Baghdad and is waiting for an opportunity to go again. Ghanem says his family was naturally worried that he may not come back from the trip, but "my wife is a Muslim too and she shares my beliefs."

"We put our trust in God," he added with quiet conviction.

Although Jihad is ostensibly for the help of Muslims, Ghanem assured a curious reporter that he would not hesitate to bring Christians across the border if the need arose. He was less sure how he would react to seeing a pilot from the allied forces needing help.

"Our religion of course says we should not kill him, but I am human and in that situation I don't know what I would do," he said.

Along the Baghdad-Amman highway — which has come to be known as "death corridor" — Ghanem saw "five trucks that had been hit by missiles, one of which was still burning. I also saw bombed buildings and many bridges have also been destroyed."

Although a first-hand witness to the horrific sights in Iraq and the death of two of his colleagues whose stationary trucks were bombed before they were machine-gunned whilst sitting at the side of the road eating lunch, Ghanem says "a Muslim who has faith in God does what he must without being afraid."

Before embarking on the trip from which they were never to return the drivers did not arrange insurance schemes for their families but "the government and His Majesty King Hussein are giving money for the education and health needs of the affected families and they will be compensated," said Dr. Abu Zaydan.

Ghanem would like to join

the Iraqi army. "I asked if I could join the Iraqi army, but the Jordanian government won't allow it. They said it's more than enough to do what I'm doing."

Iraq has declared that it does not need volunteers and that their voiced support will suffice.

Since the start of the war on Jan. 17, five convoys of trucks have gone to Baghdad. The drivers are advised to stick close together but choose the times they think best for travelling. "It is up to the drivers; they are the ones on the road," said Dr. Abu Zaydan. Before the war the journey used to take 56 hours including time spent at checkpoints, now it takes upwards of three to four days.

None of the truck drivers receives payment for making the haul.

Each journey is a complete act of faith and the drivers quote from the Koran: "Say, nothing will befall us except that which God has pre-destined for us."

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## Johnson and Krabbe easy winners in Stockholm meet

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sprinters Michael Johnson and Katrin Krabbe both breezed to easy wins at the DN Games indoor track and field meet at the Globe Arena.

But Vladimir Inozemtsev of the Soviet Union had the most outstanding result of the night with a brilliant 17.53 metres in the triple jump.

It was the longest jump of the indoor season and just 23 centimetres off the world indoor record set by Mike Conley of the United States in 1987.

Inozemtsev, who was ranked no. 2 in the world outdoors last year at 17.90 was well ahead of runnerup Tord Henriksson of Sweden, who reached 17.26 metres.

Johnson, 23, the male track and field athlete of the Year in 1990, led all the way to a 46.29-

second time in the 400 metres. "It (the time) was OK," said Johnson. "I'm not overjoyed with it. I just wanted to win the race. That's what I did. That was my only goal."

Krabbe, a three-time gold medalist at last year's European Outdoor Championships, won the women's 60 metres in 7.22 seconds despite a bad start.

"My start was not very good and I'm disappointed with the time," said Krabbe, who is the fastest over 60 metres this year. Only a few days ago she ran a 7.06. "But all the travelling has made me tired," Krabbe said.

However, Krabbe improved the meet record before a crowd of 10,966. So did Johnson, the first man in history to be ranked no. 1 in both the 200 and 400 metres.

Niklas Wallenlin of Sweden, a bronze medalist in the European

Championships, finished second in the 400 in 47.65. Samson Kirur of Kenya was third in 48.25. Sisko Hanhijoki of Finland was runner-up in the women's 60 metres in 7.26 with Grit Breuer of Germany third in 7.36.

Nouredine Morceli of Algeria took the lead just after the halfway point and coasted to another easy victory in the "Gunder Hagg Race" over 1,500 metres.

Morceli, who trained at high altitude in Mexico before the U.S. and European indoor season, had a winning time of 3:37.96.

The race was named after the great Hagg, a Swedish middle distance runner who set 15 world records during the early 1940s.

David Kibet of Kenya placed second in 3:39.17 with Herve Phelipeau of France third in 3:39.95 and world junior cham-

pion Moses Kiptanui of Kenya fourth in 3:40.01. Houston McTear, the U.S. veteran who is working hard in Sweden for a comeback, took the men's 60 metres in 6.65. Chidi Imoh of Nigeria was second in 6.69 and Calvin Smith of the U.S., a two-time 200-metres world champion, was third in 6.72.

Jack Pierce beat fellow American Roger Kingdom by one hundredth of a second in the 60-metre hurdles, clocking 7.66. The race was marred by four false starts.

Other winners included top-ranked Soviet Rodion Gatalin, who cleared 5.77 (18-11) in the pole vault world champion Dragutin Topić, who had a 2.34 (7-8) in the high jump and Mark Rowland of Britain, who captured the 3,000 in 7:54.90.

## Chang wins, Gilbert withdraws at Memphis indoor

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Michael Chang, who slipped from the world elite due to a hip injury last year, beat Jean-Philippe Fleurian 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the opening round of the Volvo Tennis Indoor.

The tournament's no. 5 seed, the 19-year-old Chang rallied in the third set after the Frenchman had used powerful ground strokes to even the match.

Ranked fifth in the world in 1989, Chang came to Memphis at 15th on the ATP Tour. The unseeded Fleurian is ranked 58th.

Chang said his hip has healed and he hopes to be back on the road to the top 10.

"I'm working toward it. ... It would be nice to get back into the top 10, but to be a top-10er takes work and a lot of dedication and we'll see if the game I have now will take me there," he said.

Fleurian felt he had found a winning pace in the second set

but said Chang's speed proved the better of him.

"He's a very tremendous athlete. He was running all the shots down," Fleurian said.

The \$750,000 tournament ends Sunday with the singles winner earning \$99,000.

Brad Gilbert, seeded fourth, announced Tuesday night he was withdrawing from the tournament.

He said he injured a tendon in his left leg last Saturday during a loss to Ivan Lendl during the U.S. Indoors at Philadelphia. Lendl is seeded no. 1 in Memphis.

"I'm disappointed I can't play this week," Gilbert said, "but in the big picture of things, I've just got to try to get well and hopefully be able to play in a couple of weeks."

Gilbert was replaced in the tournament lineup by Jeff Tarran, ranked 138th in the world. Gilbert is no. 7.

In other matches Tuesday, Tim

Mayotte, a former top-10 player now ranked 105th, beat Peter Lundgren of Monaco 6-3, 6-1.

Mayotte said he is working with former women's champion Billie Jean King in hopes of returning to form. He was ranked seventh in the world in 1988 and through the late 1980s was generally within striking range of the top 10.

"I just emotionally lost it," he said. "I didn't quite know what I was doing on the tour and I didn't have my goals set properly."

In another match, 10th-seeded Wally Masur of Australia defeated Dan Goldie 6-7 (1-7), 7-5, 6-2.

"I just hung in there basically and just played the big points well. It was very tight," said Masur, who made it to the final round of last year's indoor.

Mayotte said he was pleased with the way his work with King

has been going.

Her help, he said, has been emotional as well as technical.

"I want to enjoy tennis more than I have in the past and that's my primary goal. I think she is the person who can help me do that," Mayotte said.

He said he will re-evaluate his tennis future in a year.

"Like a lot of players, I'm a confidence player. If I get two or three good wins under my belt, I could run away and start playing some really great tennis," he said.

Also, no. 13 seed Cristiano Caratti of Italy defeated Guillaume Raoux of France 7-5, 7-6 (10-8) and no. 8 Darren Cahill of Australia defeated Brian Garrow 6-4, 6-2.

Defending champion Michael Stich and top seeds Lendl, Pete Sampras and Andre Gomez were scheduled to play Wednesday.

## Novotna moves to 2nd round in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA (AP) — Top-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia withstood a first set tiebreaker Tuesday night to beat unseeded Carrie Cunningham 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in the first round of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma.

Cunningham kept her returns deep to the no. 8 player in the world for most of the first set, limiting Novotna's serve-and-volley effectiveness.

"She played an aggressive first set," Novotna said. "But in the second set, I was able to take advantage of her second serve and come into the net."

In the evening's other centre court match, Halle Cioffi beat Pam Shriver, 6-1, 6-3.

"I'm a serve-and-volley player, and I didn't serve or volley well tonight," said Shriver, who saw limited action last year due to a shoulder injury. "This was one of my worst indoor matches ever."

## Klimova cleared of drug taking

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Soviet ice dancer Marina Klimova was cleared Wednesday of suspicions she used illegal drugs in winning last month's European Figure Skating Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, which Klimova failed, was not confirmed by the second final test at a German lab.

"The result of the B analysis was no confirmation of the A analysis," the union's General Secretary Beat Hässler said in a statement.

"There was no identity of the positive results of the A analysis through the B analysis."

The first urine sample pointed to possible illegal use of anabolic steroids because the ratio between testosterone and epitestosterone in Klimova's body was found above a 6-1 limit set by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Skating Union said earlier.

The second test was done at an IOC-certified laboratory in Cologne, where the Soviets had a right to be present.

"They made a huge mistake in Bulgaria," Hässler said. "There was simply no comparison between the two measurements."

He said the Cologne lab, considered among the best in the world, examined records of the Sofia test but could not determine exactly where the mistake was made. The Bulgarian equipment may have been dirty, he said.

Soviet Deputy Sports Minister Vasily Gromyko Tuesday called the first test a "mistake." He said it was flawed, partly because the Sofia drug lab has no IOC credentials.

Klimova's acquittal maintained figure skating's reputation as a generally drug-free sport, with only one confirmed doping case to date.

If found in violation of the sport's drug policy, Klimova could have been banned for up to two years, including the 1992 Winter Olympics.

She repeatedly passed drug tests as she and Ponomarenko became the world's top ice-dance pair. They won the European ice dancing title for the third consecutive time last month and are two-time world champions.

The World Championship is next month in Munich, Germany.

## PSV will not release Romario

AMSTERDAM (R) — PSV Eindhoven will not release Brazilian striker Romario for Brazil's soccer friendly against Paraguay next week, PSV manager Kees Ploegman said Wednesday.

"On that day (Wednesday) he has a League Cup match against Willem II Tilburg, so he cannot go," he said.

Ploegman added that PSV's decision made it academic whether or not Romario actually wanted to play for his country. Romario told the PSV Voetbal Magazine in October he would no longer be available to play for Brazil because he was used so sparingly in the 1990 World Cup finals.

## USTA plans to keep U.S. Open in New York City

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) and Mayor David Dinkins have announced plans to expand and upgrade the National Tennis Centre in a bid to keep the U.S. Open championships in New York City.

The USTA lease with the city expires in 1994 and there has been talk of moving the Grand Slam tournament to a new site because the event has outgrown

its current home.

"Our current facility is woefully inadequate for fans and players alike," USTA President David Markin told a news conference. "In order to maintain its premier status, the U.S. Open must have an enlarged, world-class, state-of-the-art tennis centre in which to compete."

The U.S. Open, previously the national championships, have been held in New York City

continuously since 1924 — at Forest Hills through 1977 and since 1978 at its present site in Flushing Meadows Park.

The plans expand the 17-acre Flushing Meadows site to 31 acres and includes the building of three new stadiums on land near the current 20,000-seat Louis Armstrong Stadium.

The proposal calls for one stadium with a seating capacity of

24,000 and smaller ones of 12,000 and 5,000 seats. An additional 15 new outdoor field courts will also be added under the new plans.

Markin said construction would take two years and could be ready by 1994. The existing stadium and its adjacent grandstand would be demolished after the new facility was complete.

The plans must be approved by city, state and local officials.

## Frazier, Ali to meet again but not in the ring

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali will meet again, but this time it won't be in the ring.

Instead of another case of aging fighters going at it for a big purse, Frazier and Ali will be trying to raise money for their charities at a dinner being planned by Frazier's son Marvis and daughter Jacquelyn.

"Where these guys were warriors in the ring, now they're warriors of humanitarianism," Marvis Frazier, 30, said the idea came from his brother-in-law who noted the approaching 20th anniversary of the first Ali-Frazier heavyweight championship fight won March 8, 1971, by Frazier. Ali won their

two later meetings.

"I said we should do something for Pop," Frazier said. "He never had a retirement party. He never had anything in Philadelphia that really exploded for him. So we thought hey, this would be great."

"This is the first time in 20 years that Ali and Pop have been together in Philadelphia. We figured we'd try to make it a citywide celebration."

The younger Frazier envisions a "big celebrity-type, gala affair" on April 13 or 14, and said Ali is committed to it.

"We've already talked to Buster Douglas, Tommy Hearns, Larry (Holmes), Floyd (Patterson)," he said. "Basically Frazier and Ali were the ones who basi-

cally broke the barrier for these boxers to make the dollars that they're making today. Both men have charities that they contribute to."

For Frazier, it's the Frazier Golden Gloves, a non-profit corporation to help youth through amateur boxing. For Ali, it's the "Save The Future" Foundation.

The younger Frazier said Frazier Golden Gloves was founded in 1969, but that his father had been pursuing its work "all along" for kids in north Philadelphia and the surrounding area.

"We train these guys. We teach 'em, we give 'em leadership, we give 'em character — basically

the same thing you would teach your young kid," he said. "Not everybody had Joe Frazier as a father. ..."

"When I was on the road I had the best robes, the best shoes, whatever. Not every kid has that."

Frazier said preparations for the event didn't give enough time to have it on the actual anniversary of the fight.

He said Ali's people "Loved the idea." He said Joe Frazier said, "if you guys want to do it — you know how humble he is — if you want to do it, it's OK."

"He said if the champ wants to come, that'd be great," Frazier said his father said of Ali.

## Becker splits with coach

STUTTGART (R) — Boris Becker announced Wednesday he had decided to split with his Australian coach Bob Brett.

Becker, who last week lost the world number one spot to Stefan Edberg after less than three weeks at the top, made the announcement in a statement at the Stuttgart Classic Tennis Tournament.

The 23-year-old German, who has been forced out of the game for four weeks with a thigh injury, has been coached by Brett since November 1987. The Australian was only the second main coach of Becker's professional career.

Neither Becker nor Brett were available for immediate comment.

The statement said both parties had decided not to renew Brett's contract which expired on Feb. 15.

Brett took over in 1987 from

Gunter Bosch, the father figure behind the German's early career when he won Wimbledon for the first time as a teenager.

Brett guided Becker to three Grand Slam titles and 18 tournament victories on the Grand Prix circuit.

Becker took the top for the first time in his career when he won last month's Australian Open. But he was forced to surrender it after pulling out of the semifinals of last week's Belgian Indoor Tournament because of the thigh injury.

"I am very grateful to Bob for the help and effort he has given to myself and my tennis," Becker, who is in Munich having treatment on the injury, said in the statement.

Brett said: "It was a superb experience for me and great fun to work with one of the best tennis players that I have ever met."

## Edberg advances in Stuttgart

STUTTGART, (AP) — Stefan Edberg, who recently reclaimed the ATP Tour's no. 1 ranking, beat unseeded Markus Zöckle of Germany 6-4, 7-6 (6-2) to win the first round of the men's \$1-million Stuttgart Eurocard Classic Tennis Tournament.

After breaking serve to capture the first set, Edberg exchanged breaks with Zöckle to force a tiebreaker. Edberg dominated the tiebreaker 6-2 to seal the win and advance to the second round.

Edberg became the top seed in the indoor event after the defending champion, Boris Becker, pulled out because of a leg injury.

Going into the Stuttgart event, Edberg led Becker by 17 points on the ATP computer.

In other action Tuesday, unseeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain upset third-seeded Thomas Mus-

ser of Austria in straight sets.

Bruguera broke serve twice in the first set and once in the second to coast to a 6-2, 6-3 win at the indoor event.

Fourth-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain clinched a first-set tiebreaker 7-3 and went on to beat unseeded Amos Mansdorf. Sanchez took the second set 6-3.

Another Spaniard, Jordi Arrese, made an early exit as Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia won a first-set tiebreaker and broke in the second set to take the match 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

In other matches, no. 8 Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland dropped a set to Slobodan Zivojinovic but beat the Yugoslav in a third-set tiebreaker 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-4).

Patrick Baur of Germany defeated Niklas Kulti of Sweden 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AQ9643 ♣Void ♠962 ♠AK83  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East  
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
3 ♣ Pass ?

\*—weak

What action do you take?  
A.—Partner's heart rebid denies three spades, or even two spades headed by an honor. Under the circumstances, it would seem that a pass is the prudent course. We would have tried four hearts had we held even a singleton heart.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A107632 ♣A10943 ♠8 ♠5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass  
3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
3 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?  
A.—You can expect partner to hold nine or 10 cards in the minor suits, so the possibility of finding him with three-card heart support is negligible. Since we are furnishing partner with two sure tricks, we'll take our chances right where we are. Pass.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠KJ9643 ♣AJ52 ♠J6 ♠7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
3 ♣ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?  
A.—We are simply not prepared to concede this hand to the opponents. While we would like to get both major suits into the picture, we foresee too many complications were we to make a takeout double. We

would settle for the practical bid of three spades.

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AK109 ♣7J ♠AKJ1083 ♠75  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A.—Someone is spreading a vile canard that we are out to trap our readers. Nothing could be further from the truth. For example, regardless of what sort of jump overcalls we were playing, we would not consider any action other than a takeout double. If a spade fit does not exist, we have plenty in reserve to bid our diamonds strongly later.

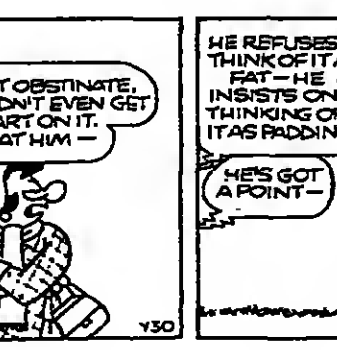
Q.5—Both vulnerable. South deals:  
♠J1076 ♣KQ1094 ♠6 ♠AK8  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass ?

What do you bid now?  
A.—Partner's rebid is game-forcing. However, once in a while partner might have been forced to improvise on a three-card spade suit, so don't crowd the auction by leaping to four spades. Three spades does just fine.

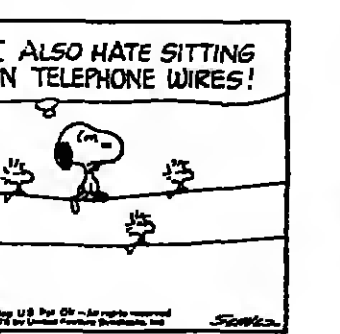
Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠65 ♣7984 ♠54 ♠AKJ1052  
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—This is not the hand for a response of one no trump, regardless of whether you play that forcing or not. Bid two clubs, then rebid three clubs at your next turn. That shows a good club suit, but a sub-minimum two-over-one response.

## Andy Capp



## Peanuts

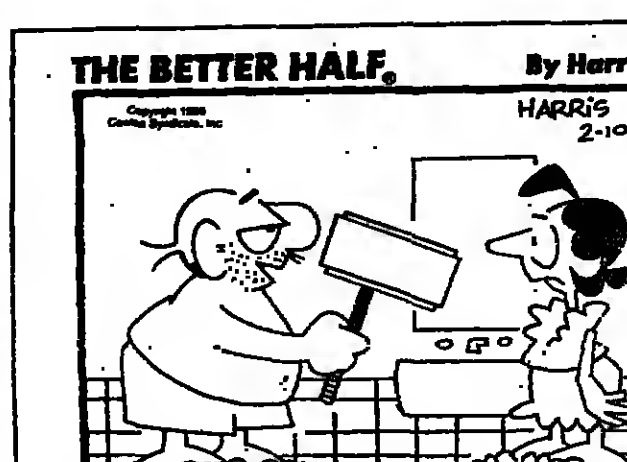


## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Horoscope not received

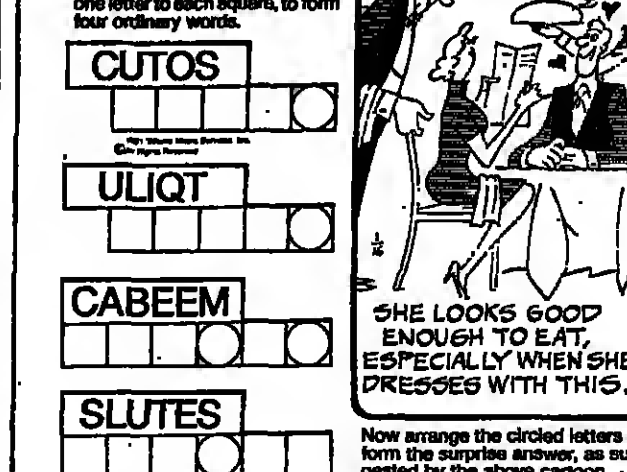
### THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"With this razor I can shave my face faster and stay in bed five minutes longer!"

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



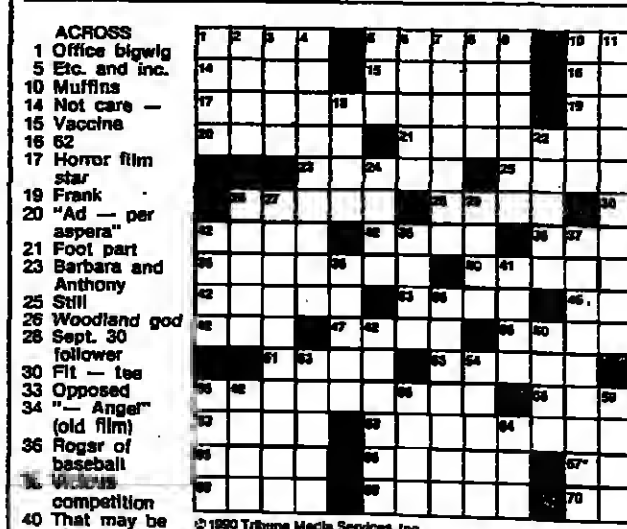
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O"  
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TEASE GRAIN BAFFLE CUGEL

Answer: What that snob was born with—HER FACE LIFTED

## THE Daily Crossword by Thomas W. Schier



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:





## B.A. unveils plan for new German airline

BONN (R) — British Airways PLC (B.A.) said Tuesday it had asked Bonn's transportation ministry for permission to set up a new German airline.

Airline spokesman Bernd Wietfeld said the new airline, of which B.A. would hold 49 per cent, would breathe new life into Germany's growing airline market which is currently dominated by state-owned Deutsche Lufthansa A.G.

The ministry said the application was for a new as-yet unnamed airline that would be 51 per cent owned by German banks and would take over B.A.'s German routes to Berlin from April 1.

"We are very much interested in stimulating competition on the German market," Wietfeld said. B.A., which had been flying between Berlin and other German cities for the past 44 years, was already competing with Lufthansa on many inter-German routes, he said.

Bonn and the three Western World War II allies — Britain, France and the United States — have agreed the allies will cut their flights between Berlin and the rest of Germany by 20 per cent by April and a further 10 per cent every six months thereafter.

By end of 1992, the agreed cuts would have halved B.A.'s Berlin business, Wietfeld said.

Before German unification on Oct. 3, allied airlines had exclusive rights to the Berlin routes, but Bonn's own airline Lufthansa pushed for changes to allow it to seize at least part of the lucrative market.

Commerzbank spokesman Peter Pletsch said the German banks' stake would be shared by the investment arms of Commerzbank A.G., Bayerische Vereinsbank A.G. and Berliner Bank A.G.

No financial details were disclosed.

## EC prefers high oil price to rebuild Gulf

STRASBOURG, France (R) — Oil prices should be kept high enough to pay for rebuilding the Middle East and promoting growth in the region since the Gulf war is over, top European Community (EC) officials said Wednesday.

"Economic stability naturally supposes a stable and remunerative oil price which would allow the financing of such colossal investments as the reconstruction of Kuwait, Iraq and Lebanon," Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos told the European parliament in Strasbourg.

EC commissioner for Mediterranean relations Abel Matutes, said steps should be taken to stop oil being used as a political weapon and to avoid confrontation between members

of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"It will be necessary to move to a strategy of dialogue, governed by a market, but by a market exempt from political and geostrategic pressures," he said.

Oil prices should be pitched high enough to permit accelerated growth in developing countries while allowing stable growth in industrialised economies, he added, noting that past oil shocks had hurt both groups.

Prices jumped from \$20 to around \$40 a barrel in the three months after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August.

They have fallen to around \$17 since the outbreak of war, and some industry analysts have forecast a fall to as low as \$5 once the war ends.

## Official figures confirm Britain is in recession

LONDON (R) — Official statistics Wednesday confirmed what anguished British businessmen have known for months. The nation's economy is in recession.

The government's Central Statistical Office said gross domestic product (GDP) declined by 0.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1990 compared with the previous three months.

The GDP, the broadest measure of economic performance, had declined by 1.3 per cent in the 1990 third quarter.

Economists' classic definition of recession is that the economy should contract for two consecutive quarters.

The figures also showed the first year-on-year decline in GDP since 1981. GDP slipped by 1.1 per cent in the 1990 final quarter compared with the same period of 1989.

The recession is largely blamed on high interest rates, imposed for more than a year by the Conservative government in an effort to drive down inflation.

Inflation is easing, down to

nine per cent in January from almost 11 per cent last autumn, but remains well above the European average.

Wednesday's figures were no surprise. Other data has shown shop sales at the lowest since 1981, unemployment nearing two million and 50 companies failing every day.

Harrod's the luxury London "top people's" store, said this week it was shedding 600 staff.

Other figures Wednesday showed weak growth in the money supply. Bank lending to private business and consumers was lower in January than December.

"The figures are full of recessionary evidence," said Gwyn Hachue, an economist with stockbrokers James Capel.

He and many other analysts believe this would put more pressure on Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont to cut interest rates again soon, possibly before the March 19 annual budget.

## Gulf war boosts S.Korean instant noodle exports

SEOUL (R) — Exports of instant noodles in the Gulf by South Korea's largest noodle manufacturer have almost quadrupled since war broke out, a company spokesman said Wednesday.

"Our product seems to be used as a substitute for soup by the multi-national forces in the Gulf," said a spokesman for Nongshim Co. Ltd. "As far as we know, retailers in that region are delivering the noodles to army bases."

Noodle orders from the Gulf region had been increasing gradually since Iraq took over Kuwait last August, he said. But orders quadrupled in January and February when the coalition forces began an air campaign for Iraq to quit Kuwait.

Nongshim exports of noodles to nearly quadrupled to \$1.7 million in the first two months of this year compared with \$430,000 in the same period of last year.

Saudi Arabia is the main destination for noodles sent to the

Gulf.

"We are considering full operation of the factory to cope with rising orders," he said. Initially exports by Nongshim, sold through its Gulf regional agent Al Shadif Trading Co. Ltd., were targeted to South Korean construction workers and residents in the Gulf region.

The noodles, which are especially popular among younger Koreans, are a bit spicy, but Nongshim has moderated the taste for foreigners. The noodles are prepared by adding hot water to the noodle container.

After the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988, exports of noodles by Nongshim, dramatically increased. Total exports last year rose 25 per cent to \$40 million from \$32 million in 1989 and up 167 per cent from \$15 million in 1987.

The company expected exports to Saudi Arabia to average up to \$800,000 a month this year against \$280,000 a month in 1990.

## Mexico signs its first debt-for-nature swap

MEXICO CITY (R) — MEXICO Tuesday signed its first debt-for-nature swap, a financial agreement that will free up \$2.6 million to protect the country's environment.

The agreement will provide protection for the Selva Lacandona, North America's last tropical rain forest. Environmental groups have said the forest, in southeastern Mexico's Chiapas state, was on the brink of extinction.

Finance ministry spokesman Emilio Cruz said the debt reduction-environmental protection accord was signed at a ceremony attended by senior government officials and representatives of Conservation International, a

Washington-based ecology group.

Under the agreement, Conservation International will purchase \$4 million of discounted Mexican debt and exchange it for Mexican pesos that will be donated to various environmental protection programmes.

Because of a 35 per cent discount on the cancelled debt, the amount donated in pesos, between now and 1995, will total \$2.6 million, Cruz said.

A statement issued by Conservation International to Washington said a leading objective of the environmental protection programme would be saving the Selva Lacandona.

"More than 50 per cent of the original Selva Lacandona has already been destroyed by illegal logging and conversion of forest into farmland," the statement said.

"At an annual deforestation rate of five to seven per cent, what remains will be completely gone in 10 years," it said.

Similar debt for nature swaps have been signed since 1987 by Bolivia, Costa Rica and Madagascar.

**JORDAN TIMES**  
TEL. 667171

## Greenspan warns of worsening recession from lengthy Gulf war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan warned Wednesday that the recession could be worsened by a lengthy Gulf war and continuing problems in the nation's banking system.

In written testimony to Congress, Greenspan pledged that the Fed would "remain alert" to changes in the economy in conducting its interest rate policies in coming months.

The central bank over the past three months has been lowering interest rates in an effort to spark an upturn.

"It would be most unwise to rule out the possibility that the recession may become more serious than already is apparent," Greenspan said in his semiannual report to Congress on monetary policy.

Among the dangers cited by Greenspan was the possibility that an extended war in the Gulf would undercut public confidence and further weaken consumer spending.

He also cited a further slowdown in bank lending and increased public concern about the weakness of the U.S. banking system as other risks to a rebound in economic activity.

In addition to holding out the possibility of lower interest rates, Greenspan said the central bank and other federal banking regula-

## Finland cancels Egyptian debt

CAIRO (R) — Finland has cancelled \$78 million in debts owed by Egypt to help offset losses from the Gulf crisis, the Finnish embassy said Wednesday.

An embassy statement said low-interest loans given to Egypt over the past decade had been converted to grants.

"The decision of the Finnish government covers repayments as well as interest as of Jan. 1, 1991," it said.

Egypt, a key Arab member of the U.S.-led alliance fighting to drive Iraq out of Kuwait, has lost billions of dollars in tourist revenues and worker remittances since the Gulf crisis began in August.

The embassy said Finland was also increasing grants to help Egyptian development programmes and had earmarked around \$85 million for the next four years.

The United States has already cancelled about \$7 billion in military debts owed by Egypt in recognition of its stand on the Gulf crisis. Gulf Arab states have written off a similar amount.

Other Western countries have indicated they would also cancel part of the remaining \$36 billion of Egypt's debt, but have tied the offer to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) accord on economic reform.

## S. Arabia offers Pakistan 50,000 barrels per day of free crude oil

ISLAMABAD (R) — Saudi Arabia has offered Pakistan 50,000 barrels per day (b/d) of light crude oil free of charge for three months to help it through the Gulf crisis, Finance Minister Saraj Aziz said Wednesday.

The concession, ordered by Saudi King Fahd, is worth about \$100 million over three months. "Maybe it would continue beyond three months. It depends on the war situation," Aziz said in a telephone interview.

Pakistan has been badly hit by the Gulf crisis, which has added about \$700 million to its annual oil import bill, now expected to be \$2 billion this fiscal year, which began last July.

Apart from higher oil costs, foreign remittances are likely to drop by \$100 million, Gulf trade by \$300 million and increased freight and insurance charges are put at \$400 million.

Islamabad has sent 11,000 troops to play a defensive role in Saudi Arabia, but its policy remains deeply unpopular with many Pakistanis who support Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Pakistani officials have been privately critical of Saudi Arabia and the toppled Kuwaiti government for providing billions of dollars for other nations directly

harmed by the crisis but nothing for Pakistan.

"This was not something that was subject to negotiation," foreign ministry official said. "It was a spontaneous gesture by the (Saudi) king and is very welcome to the government of Pakistan."

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait last August, Pakistan bought virtually all its petroleum products from Kuwait at discount prices.

Since then it has been forced to buy on the spot market, financing some of the deals through deferred credit or short-term commercial bank borrowings.

Pakistan produced about 65,000 b/d of its own oil but has to import about 80,000 b/d of light crude and the equivalent of 60,000 to 65,000 of products.

Although the Saudi grant represents only five per cent of the annual oil bill, Aziz said any help was welcome.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves dropped to \$100 million last November if deposits held abroad are counted but have since recovered to about \$330 million.

"I would not say that we are comfortable but we are no longer in the critical position that we were two or three months ago," Aziz said.

## Shortages, sackings and strikes deepen Brazil's economic crisis

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's economy moved deeper into crisis Tuesday with news of rapidly rising unemployment, higher prices, more strikes and growing shortages of food and electrical goods in stores.

Companies in Sao Paulo state, the country's industrial heartland, fired a record 68,772 employees in January — nearly four per cent of their entire work force.

The director of the state industry federation FIESP, Luiz Adelar Scherer, predicted that a wave of social unrest was "imminent."

Workers at the giant V.W./Ford subsidiary Autolatina marched out of their factories and blocked roads Tuesday to protest against the company's decision to shed one in eight of the work force after a collapse in sales.

In Santos, Brazil's biggest port

and a key coffee port, coffee, soy and orange juice exports, union officials voted overwhelmingly to continue a 13-day-old strike that has halted all operations.

Meanwhile inflation, the government's declared No. 1 enemy, continues to rise.

The industry federation said it expected prices to increase 28 per cent in February — the highest monthly figure since President Fernando Collor de Mello took power last March promising to liquidate inflation within a year.

Collor, who inherited monthly inflation running at 80 per cent, spun the country into recession by taking nearly a third of the country's money out of circulation overnight, slashing state spending and firing thousands of civil servants.

His gamble appeared to have paid off when inflation fell to

even as the economy sank deeper into recession, with output falling four per cent last year, prices started to take off again.

Shortly after the government statistics institute IBGE announced that prices had risen 19.91 per cent in January, Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello appeared on television to announce an indefinite price and wage freeze.

But at the same time, Cardoso raised fuel prices, electricity, gas, postal and telephone charges by amounts ranging between 40 per cent and 70 per cent in an attempt to bring in more money and balance the state's books.

FIESP said the inflationary pressure created by the hefty tariff rises was responsible for pushing prices in February in spite of the price freeze, Brazil's fifth in five years.

## Thomas Cook wants to cut pay of employees

LONDON (R) — Travel agent chain Thomas Cook Group Ltd. is asking its British-based staff to accept a pay cut to help reduce costs by \$25 million (\$49 million).

The company, a subsidiary of commercial bankers Midland Bank PLC, said in a statement Tuesday it was seeking what it described as a temporary reduction.

Wage cuts would range from one per cent of weekly salary before tax for junior staff to 10 per cent of salary for directors, effective from March 1, it said.

"We have an immediate need to reduce costs in the U.K. and Ireland by approximately \$25 million in order to protect our profits," the company said. It said the aim was to cut its payroll cost base by about \$12 million (\$25.5 million).

The plan included enhanced voluntary redundancy terms and special terms for early retirement of staff over the age of 50.

Staff were also being asked to consider taking unpaid leave, it said.

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## Budget

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Wednesday, February 20, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	660.0	670.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	507.1	510.1
Pound Sterling	1302.3	1310.1	Dutch guilder	396.3	398.7
Deutsche mark	446.5	449.2	Swedish crown	119.5	120.2
Swiss franc	521.8	524.9	Italian lire (for 100)	39.5	39.9
French franc	131.3	132.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	217.7	219.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.9510/20	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1535/45	Canadian dollar	
	1.4910/17	Deutsche mark	
	1.6795/6805	Dutch guilder	
	1.2750/55	Swiss franc	
	30.67/72	Belgian franc	
	5.0720/70	French franc	
	1116/1117	Italian lire	
	131.32/42	Japanese yen	
	5.5660/10	Swedish crown	
	5.8300/50	Norwegian crown	
	5.7325/73	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	363.50/364.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
SYDNEY — Disappointing profit results, Gulf war uncertainties and doubts about whether Wall Street could sustain its meteoric rise sent Australian stocks to a sharply lower close. The All Ordinaries fell 26.5 points to 1372.2.	
TOKYO — Stocks closed higher after a volatile morning session dominated by uncertainty over the Gulf war. The Nikkei index was up 31.81 points to 26,198.79.	
HONG KONG — The Hang Seng gained 24.32 points to 3,492.16 and the broader-based Hong Koon index went up 14.10 points to 2,289.04. Buying interest centered on blue chips and new orders had slowed from earlier this week.	
FRANKFURT — Shares ended 1.3 per cent lower, driven down by profit-taking after three consecutive days of gains. The DAX index ended down 19.81 points at 1,567.32.	
ZURICH — Investors took profits as the recent fall in Swiss interest rates slowed. The all-share SPI index lost 16.8 points to 998.2.	
PARIS — Braking a five-day rally, French shares closed lower although dealers said the fall was relatively small for the last day of the monthly account. The CAC-40 index fell 7.86 points, 0.46 per cent, to 1,690.27.	
LONDON — Trading was limited as the market waited for Iraq's answer to a Soviet peace plan. The FTSE index lost 15.6 points to 2,296.8.	
NEW YORK — Gulf uncertainties produced steady selling. At 1644 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were down 25.74 points to 2,906.68.	

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**RAINBOW**  
**MAD MAX Part II**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144  
**PHILADELPHIA**  
**L.A. BOUNTY**  
Performances: Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238  
**PLAZA**  
Nabila Obeld / Salah Gabil  
in  
**The Case Of Samiha Badran**  
Show: 12:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15 p.m.



# Yeltsin's attack on Gorbachev fires fury from conservatives

MOSCOW (R) — Conservatives in the Soviet parliament accused Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday of declaring civil war with his appeal to Krenin leader Mikhail Gorbachev to resign.

A succession of deputies rose to denounce Yeltsin, whose live television address Tuesday opened the way for a showdown between the two rivals. He said Gorbachev was deceiving the people and moving towards dictatorship.

"Yesterday's statement by Yeltsin was tantamount to a declaration of civil war," Anatoly Chekhov, a leading member of the right-wing Soyuz (Union) Group, told parliament.

"When the (Soviet) Union is disintegrating, the time has come to talk about a state of emergency throughout the country."

"When a person has many problems, he himself becomes a problem. Yesterday's speech was a call to a coup," conservative deputy Yuri Sharipov said.

In an unusual move, the attacks on Yeltsin were shown in a special morning television broadcast.

No members of the liberal inter-regional group, which supports Yeltsin, were called to

speaking. But liberal Leningrad Mayor Anatoly Sobchak told journalists: "I categorically disagree with everything that has been said."

The Soviet parliament, which has a firm conservative majority secured by the voting system used at March 1989 elections, set up a committee to prepare an appeal to the people of the Russian Federation or its parliament. The committee was dominated by Communists and conservatives.

Yeltsin, formerly a protégé of Gorbachev but now his strongest political rival, said Tuesday that Gorbachev must resign and transfer power to the Federation Council — an executive body embracing the 15 Soviet republics.

But Communists, who form Gorbachev's own power base, are gathering their forces for a vote of no confidence against Yeltsin in his own Russian parliament.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda accused Yeltsin of pushing the country towards a catastrophe. "B.N. Yeltsin is using all means he can muster to achieve his own personal ambitions, which are far from the goal of democracy and ... perestroika," it said.

Yeltsin, by far the most popu-

lar politician in the Soviet Union, was elected president by only a narrow margin in the Russian Parliament a year ago.

He has since clashed repeatedly with Gorbachev over his attempts to curb the power of central Soviet authorities over the biggest of the 15 republics.

In July, he drew the fury of Communists by quitting the party after a divisive congress. The party is now rallying again, buoyed by the failure of liberals to organise effective bases of power.

Yeltsin, now a member of no party, demands control of Russia's natural resources, which account for three-quarters of Soviet assets, and freedom to conduct more radical economic reforms. Gorbachev insists his plans would lead to chaos.

In a further sign of conflict between the republics, Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov told parliament that the announcement of a new cabinet of ministers under Gorbachev's newly approved power structure had been delayed by disagreements with Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine.

Yeltsin appeared on television last year to warn that if the Soviet president did not yield to his

demands he would appeal to the people over Gorbachev's head — the step he appeared to have made with Tuesday's declaration.

Yeltsin achieved a major success earlier this week when a commission approved his demand for a referendum on direct popular election of an executive Russian president.

The question will be put to voters on March 17, alongside Gorbachev's proposal on preservation of the union.

Yeltsin introduced a note of personal bitterness toward his one-time Communist Party mentor, who in 1985 brought him from the Urals to take over the Moscow party organisation.

"I think that my personal mistake was too much trust in the president," he said.

"The new government is going about reform in the old way. It is my opinion that this will lead to a dead end," he said.

"I have made my choice. And each must choose and find his own path. I want you to hear and understand me. I have made that choice and I won't leave this path," Yeltsin said.

"I ... believe in the support of the peoples of Russia and your support, and I hope for it,"

## Hurd warns Europe of weakening links with U.S.

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has warned Western Europe will lose American support if it weakens the transatlantic relationship in defence, trade and other areas.

He cited three recent examples that could convince Americans their European allies question the links between the two continents: An obstinate stance in world trade talks, discussions of a European defence identity separate from NATO and a lukewarm response to the Gulf crisis.

"If America feels let down by her allies, there is a danger that she will retreat within herself," Hurd said in a speech here.

He cautioned against plans for a European defence organisation outside of the NATO alliance that commits the United States and Canada to the defence of Western Europe and the North Atlantic.

"The planning of European defence cannot become an exclusively European matter or even a matter exclusively for the European members of the alliance," Hurd said.

The 12 European Community (EC) countries are considering an ambitious plan to give the trade bloc common foreign and defence policies. While they broadly agree on the need for a joint foreign policy, they disagree sharply on how far to go in setting up a common defence.

Germany and France want to revive the Western European Union (WEU), a largely dormant nine-nation defence organisation, and bring it into the EC. But Britain and the Netherlands fear this will decouple Europe from its North American NATO allies.

Hurd said he favoured the WEU as a "bridge" between the EC and NATO but not as a substitute for NATO's functions.

The WEU is comprised of all EC nations but Greece, Denmark and neutral Ireland.

British officials said Hurd's ideas would be turned into a formal proposal to be tabled in talks among the EC governments.

In the Gulf war, Hurd said the United States was assuming a disproportionate "brunt of the fighting."

He said Britain's 40,000-troop force in the Gulf was by far the largest European contribution yet amounted to only 8 per cent of the U.S. effort.

"The U.S. may tire of the role of world policeman," he said.

Hurd said the EC jeopardised its relations with the United States late last year by presenting "an offer everyone knew would be unacceptable to the Americans" in world trade talks held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"If GATT fails, trade will suffer in general. Europe's relations will suffer in particular," said Hurd in the annual Churchill memorial lecture.

## Slovenia debates formal secession from Yugoslavia

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Slovenia's parliament began debate Wednesday on a resolution formally initiating the rebel republic's secession from Yugoslavia.

The resolution would formalise "in a vigorous way" Slovenia's desire to be independent, said Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

The resolution proposes dissolution of the fractious Yugoslav Federation into two or more sovereign states, Rupel said in an interview.

Slovenia, a small northern republic of about 2 million people bordering Austria and Italy, is supported in its drive for independence by its neighbour, Croatia, Yugoslavia's second-largest state. Croatia has said it would follow Slovenia if it secedes.

Parliament's three chambers began individual, closed-door debates on the secession resolution Wednesday morning. Its 240 members were to come together for a plenary session to vote on the resolution later in the day.

Parliament also is to adopt a constitutional amendment to formally annul most federal laws in the republic.

Rupel said that if a peaceful dissolution of the country could not be achieved through negotiation with other republics, then Slovenia would have no other recourse but to declare its independence.

"If Slovenia is out, then there will be no Yugoslavia anymore," Rupel said.

The prominent Croatian weekly, Danas, said Tuesday that after Wednesday's session, the Yugoslav Federation founded in 1945

will "formally cease to exist."

Communist-ruled Serbia, the largest republic, has strongly opposed any plans to change the federal system of six republics and two provinces. It is backed by the predominantly Serb army commanders.

The Serbia Press Wednesday denounced the resolution before the Slovenian parliament as "a flat-out declaration of Slovenian independence."

Slovenia has served notice it plans to reduce its payments to the federal government and army, and suggested Yugoslavia's \$16-billion foreign debt be divided among the republics under arbitration of foreign experts.

By seeking to divide up the debt, Slovenia could make plans to pay the money, wash its hands of Yugoslavia, and declare independence.

In a Dec. 23 referendum, Slovenians overwhelmingly voted in favour of secession.

Slovenian officials have cited Yugoslavia's decade-long inability to solve deep ethnic, economic and political crises as the reason for their desire to leave.

Yugoslavia's republics have since Jan. 10 held four rounds of unsuccessful talks on how to save the country from disintegration. The next round is scheduled for Friday.

Slovenian officials say that in future talks, the republic will only negotiate on its peaceful departure from Yugoslavia.

Slovenian President Milan Kucan recently said his republic is nearing secession, but was open to negotiations with like-minded republics on a new "community of sovereign states."

## COLUMN

### Aides deny that Aquino consults fortune teller

MANILA (AP) — The presidential palace has denied reports that President Corason Aquino consults Japanese and other fortune tellers, the Philippine Star said.

The statement was issued after the newspaper's publisher, Max Soliven, quoted what he said was a Times Of London report that Aquino regularly consults Japanese seer Reisei Noguchi.

"The president asked me to convey to you that, contrary to the Times Of London story quoted in your column, she does not consult the Japanese fortune teller, Reisei Noguchi," presidential spokesman Adolfo Azanza said in a letter published by the daily.

"In fact, she adds, she does not consult any fortune teller."

Soliven Tuesday quoted a Times Of London report that Aquino, along with other national leaders, regularly consults the 65-year-old Japanese seer. "Is this true?" he asked. "And if so, has Noguchi predicted her downfall — or that she will last ... well, forever?"

Soliven is among four journalists facing a libel suit filed by Aquino in connection with a 1987 column by commentator Luis Beltran, who said she "hid under her bed" during a coup attempt that year.

### Barbara Cartland receives title

LONDON (AP) — Feisty romantic novelist Barbara Cartland went to Buckingham Palace Tuesday to be invested as a Dame of the British Empire, and she emerged to defend the royal family against newspaper attacks on its wartime performance.

Queen Elizabeth II presented the honour to the 89-year-old queen of romantic fiction. Afterwards, Dame Barbara had a bash at the media, accusing them of "asking too much" by demanding the royal family contribute more to the Gulf war effort.

"The thing you want if you have suffered an attack from poison gas, for instance, is to have a lot of flybys puffing around wanting a lot of attention," she said. "It is important (the media) realise how important they are," she continued. "They want to use their power for the right things, not for the wrong."

In an editorial on Feb. 10, the Sunday Times accused some younger members of the royal family of living it up while the nation waged war. Opinion polls found that many members of the public agreed.

Miss Cartland has a tenuous tie to the royal family: Her daughter Rainie is married to Earl Spencer, father of Princess Diana by his previous marriage.

### Rapist gets 100 lashes

BARA, Pakistan (R) — Islamic scholars took turns to lash a convicted rapist with a leather whip Wednesday as thousands of Pakistani tribal spectators exhorted them to strike harder.

Afghan refugee Bahadur Khan, sentenced to 100 lashes for kidnapping and raping a 14-year-old girl, was one of eight men whipped in front of more than 10,000 people at Bara in northwestern Pakistan. The rest got off with five lashes for kidnapping, theft, heroin smoking or harbouring criminals, but 25-year-old Khan was unable to walk unaided after the punishment. In the first public whipping for years, he was held down by four men on the roof of a low building as bearded religious scholars wearing pistols took turns with a short leather whip.

### Canada cancels killers' convention

TORONTO (R) — The Canadian government has said it cancelled a conference that would have brought together more than 100 convicted killers to discuss life behind bars. The meeting, the brainchild of convicts serving life terms at a medium-security prison, was cancelled due to complaints by the public, Canada's Solicitor General Pierre Cadieux said in a statement.

Officials at Joyceville Penitentiary near Kingston, Ontario, had invited convicted murderers from other local jails, police and parole board officials, prisoners' rights advocates and members of the group "victims of violence."

Mass murderers were considered too dangerous to attend, although the meeting was to be held behind bars. The conference, set for the spring, would have included workshops and seminars on job training, parole eligibility, prisoner education and counselling.

## 15 killed when rival groups clash in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — At least 15 people were shot to death when supporters of a radical political party clashed with a private army hired by rich landlords in eastern Bihar state, news agencies said Wednesday.

A text of the broadcast was seen in Bangkok Wednesday.

Imagawa had arrived in Phnom Penh on Feb. 15 on a 12-day fact-finding mission, part of Japanese attempts to speed up the peace process. Another diplomat from the Japanese embassy in Bangkok was to visit Peking later for talks with Chinese officials, the main backers of three guerrilla groups fighting the Phnom Penh government.

Peace talks in recent months have focused on a U.N. Security Council plan to end the fighting by disarming and regrouping the government and guerrilla armies and having extensive U.N. involvement in the country's administration in the period before election.

The Cambodian government has expressed reservations over the plan, and said that guerrilla demands for dismantling the Phnom Penh government and army before elections would violate the U.N. Charter and Cambodian sovereignty.

The state radio broadcast indicated that Chea Sim, also chairman of the National Assembly, repeated these positions to Imagawa.

Che Sim told him Cambodia welcomed a U.N. role in a settlement, "but such a role must respect the U.N. Charter and the Cambodian people's wish to self-

## Japanese envoy discusses U.N. plan in Phnom Penh

BANGKOK (AP) — The Cambodian government has held talks with a Japanese diplomat, but apparently repeated its reservations about a U.N. plan to end the 12-year war there.

Che Sim, the no. 2 man in Cambodia's ruling Communist Party, met with Yukio Imagawa, a minister of the Japanese embassy in Thailand, the Cambodian state radio reported Tuesday.

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Che Sim told him Cambodia welcomed a U.N. role in a settlement, "but such a role must respect the U.N. Charter and the Cambodian people's wish to self-

determination," the broadcast said.

Che Sim repeated that Phnom Penh was ready for more peace talks with the guerrillas at any time, anywhere.

The Cambodian factions have agreed to meet in Indonesia for talks that country has offered to sponsor. No date has been set.

These talks would be aimed at further discussions of the U.N. plan. They would involve U.N. representatives as well as France and Indonesia, the two countries chairing the international conference on Cambodia, the main forum for working out a peace agreement.

As has happened often in the past, fighting has flared up in the run-up to talks.

At least since the last week of January, government forces have launched counterattacks against the guerrillas in the central province of Kompong Thom and in the northwest provinces near the Thai border.

The government, which Vietnam installed after invading Cambodia in late 1978, is battling a guerrilla coalition of the Communist Khmer Rouge and two non-Communist groups — followers of former Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

The guerrillas, traditionally active mostly in Western and northwestern areas bordering Thailand, made significant inroads into Kompong Thom and other interior provinces after a major Vietnamese troops pullout in September 1989.

The Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot ruled Cambodia in 1975-1978. During that time, hundreds of thousands of its 8 million people died from Khmer Rouge executions, famine and civil unrest.

## 3 killed in clashes in Soviet Georgia

MOSCOW (R) — A shadowy Georgian militia group said two of its members, along with a priest, were shot dead by Interior Ministry troops Wednesday in the latest bloody clashes in the volatile southern republic.

A local journalist quoted spokesman for the Mkhedroni (Horsemen) as saying the shootings occurred in the eastern town of Kvareli. The priest, a bystander, was apparently shot accidentally.

Georgia's Interior Ministry refused to confirm or deny the report.

Tensions in Georgia rose sharply this week when authorities arrested Mkhedroni leader Djaba Iosseliani, a fierce opponent of nationalist President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. The journalist said Iosseliani had been charged with possession of firearms.

"Arrests have started all across Georgia, in many regions where the Mkhedroni are concentrated," he added. The Mkhedroni said 25 of its members were arrested Tuesday.

Georgian Interior Ministry troops were checking vehicles entering and leaving the capital, Tbilisi, the journalist said.

The Mkhedroni supports Georgian independence but fiercely opposes Gamsakhurdia, leader of the republic's drive to break away from the Soviet Union.

Its leaders say the Mkhedroni is a troublemaking force aimed at keeping the peace, but Gamsakhurdia says the group is working on Kremlin orders to destabilise Georgia and provoke a crackdown by Moscow.

Meanwhile the United States Tuesday renewed its call for peaceful efforts to determine the future of the Soviet Union's 15 republics after the attack by Soviet forces against the nationalist group.

"Georgian republican authorities have tried to disband and disarm the unauthorised militia group on several occasions in the past," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters.

## 60 hurt in Indonesian oilfield blast

JAKARTA (R) — At least 60 people were injured when dynamite stores exploded early Wednesday in a huge Indonesian oilfield run by U.S. company Caltex, but the U.S. embassy said it was probably not an act of terrorism.

"According to reports I've received they (the injuries) were not serious," a spokesman for state oil firm Pertamina said, adding most were the result of flying glass.

Of those injured, he said 45 were employees of Caltex. He did not know if any were foreigners.

Caltex declined to comment.

Armed forces chief Try Sutrisno told reporters he was investigating the cause of the blast at the Duri field in central Sumatra.

There have been several threats directed at U.N. interests in predominantly Muslim Indonesia since the start of the Gulf war.

Last month a bomb was found in the grounds of the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Jakarta and later defused.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said "there is no indication that it was other than an industrial accident."

The blast in a dynamite warehouse just after midnight damaged company houses half a kilometre away and was about three kilometres from the Duri oil wells, the Pertamina spokesman said.

He corrected his earlier statement that the explosion had only been half a kilometre from the oil wells.

As far I know it has not affected Caltex's production," he added.

Caltex is a joint venture between Texaco Inc. and Chevron Corp. It is the biggest oil operator in Indonesia, which is Asia's only OPEC member.

## 'Philippines must cut America down to size'

MANILA (AP) — Manila will allow U.S. forces to use an air base it will take over next September but wants an agreement on military facilities that will cut the Americans' down to size, the foreign secretary has said.

"We have to cut the Americans to brotherly size," Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said. "They are far too big and fatherly. We want to be their friend. We don't want to be their protégé."

Manglapus serves as chief Philippine negotiator in talks on a new agreement covering Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller installations whose lease expires in September.

Talks ended last Saturday without an agreement on how much the United States must pay to use the bases. More talks on the issue are expected in Washington later this month.

During a television interview, Manglapus said the Philippines planned to take over Clark Air Base, 80 kilometres north of Manila, in September and convert it into a civilian airport.

He said non-combat American units, which as the military airlift

command, would be allowed to use the airfield. The Philippines will also allow the air force to use the nearby Crowe Valley training range.

Under the proposed agreement, the U.S. Navy would continue to use Subic Bay Naval Base for seven years. Subic is a major repair and supply base for U.S. naval forces in the Pacific.

"The period that we are setting for all of these — Clark and Subic — is seven years," Manglapus said. "We are giving the United States by talking about seven years enough time to adjust."

Philippine officials say they have demanded \$825 million a year for use of the bases, which Washington considers the linchpin of U.S. defence of the Far East.

The United States has offered \$520 million a year, including \$200 million in economic assistance. The Philippines want half the money in cash and the rest in trade concessions, debt relief and other "non-budgetary" items.

"We appreciate each other's needs," Manglapus said. "We appreciate the economic condition in which we find each other ... what we are asking for, we believe, is reasonable."

## Salvadorean government, rebels hold peace talks

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Peace talks opened between Salvadoran rebel and government delegations soon after guerrillas launched an attack on the San Salvador Defence Ministry.

"Our military action is to demonstrate to the government that there is no military solution to the conflict in our country. Everything should be resolved at the negotiating table," rebel Commander German Cienfuegos said in an interview.

Guerrillas launched grenades at the ministry compound Monday, killing a soldier and wounding eight other people one day before the peace talks began.

Cienfuegos said such rebel attacks are justified even when peace talks are going on because the army conducts its own permanent campaign against the rebel Rababundo Martí National Liberation Front, or FMLN.

Last month, masked uniformed men massacred 15 people in the peasant town of El Zapote, 10 kilometres north of San Salvador.

The talks, aimed at finding a political solution to the 12-year-old civil war, are the fourth round of U.N.-sponsored discussions to be held in Costa Rica since the two sides agreed to begin peace negotiations last May.

Justice Minister Oscar Santamaría, chief of the government

negotiating team, and U.N. mediator Alvaro Desoto refused to comment on the agenda for the three days of talks in San Jose.

The first five rounds of talks last year were held open to the limelight of television and newspaper reporters with little progress. Since October the process has become more discreet.

Salvadoran government negotiator Jose Manuel Pacas said talks this year in Mexico under U.N. auspices "have produced substantial advances."

Members of the FMLN negotiating team said a mutual pact to maintain confidentiality prevented them from disclosing the themes of Monday's talks.

However, Cienfuegos said, a ceasefire could be discussed "if the government agrees to deal with the issue of demilitarisation and purging the armed forces."

Those rebel conditions for a ceasefire have been the sticking point in previous talks, because the government has maintained that reduction of the 54,000-member armed forces can only be discussed after a ceasefire.

The rebels contend that government aids El Salvador's wealthy at the expense of the tiny nation's poor and that the military operates against its enemies with impunity.

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## Death toll rises to 115 in Peru cholera epidemic

LIMA (AP) — The death toll from the cholera outbreak spreading across the country has risen to 115, and the health minister says the epidemic is expected to continue for at least another two months.

Meanwhile, government health officials said Tuesday that the virulent cholera bacillus which causes the disease had been found in Lima's drinking water supply.

The health officials said the bacillus had been found in water samples taken from Lima's Astarjea drinking water processing plant. However, the Health Ministry said it had yet to confirm the find. Water purification experts said the bacillus was killed in the purification process.

The Health Ministry says the epidemic has been brought under control. But figures released Tuesday showed the death toll

was continuing to climb steadily. Fifteen more deaths were reported Tuesday, bringing the overall death toll to 115 out of 22,497 reported cases since the outbreak began in late January.

Health Minister Carlos Vidal said the epidemic would last at least another two months.

Cholera, spread in feces-contaminated water and food, affects the intestines, causing diarrhea and severe fluid loss. It can be fatal if not treated.

Farmers and fishermen declared that their business had been ruined by the outbreak.

Mark Bright, spokesman for the Exporters Association, said in a telephone interview Tuesday that sensationalist press reports were to blame for export losses, as importing nations tightened health precautions by barring Peruvian food products.

Bright's comments came after

the Italian government Tuesday banned the importation of Peruvian shellfish, suspected of harbouring the vibrio cholerae bacillus. Members of the European Community are still debating whether to join the ban.

France, meanwhile, lifted its restrictions on some Peruvian food products but maintained a ban on seafood imports. Similar bans on seafood imports were imposed by Peru's neighbours — Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador.

Many nations imposed the restrictions on food imports from Peru after the Peruvian government announced that the bacillus had been found in seawater, plankton and shore-bugging fish.

Peru is the world's number one fishmeal exporter and a major producer of fish oil and canned fish. Fish and seafood exports

bring in \$500 million a year, a fifth of Peru's total exports.

Peru's fruit and vegetable exports, which earn \$300 million a year. Have also suffered.

In Ecuador, the government said that so far there have been no confirmed cases of cholera in the country. At the same time, officials denied that Ecuadorian seafood was contaminated, after local fish and shellfish sales plummeted.

The outbreak, officially declared a cholera epidemic by the Peruvian government on Feb. 4, has spread along the full length of Peru's 1,400-mile (2,200-kilometre) coastline and into highland and jungle areas.

News reports Tuesday said that new cholera cases had been registered in the northern coastal town of Tumbes, and in the popular tourist city of Arequipa in the southern highlands.